BUSINESS / B1

Ayala to build P2-B mall in Pampanga, 1st venture in retail mart in C. Luzon

SPORTS / A29

Harry Tañamor, boxing's brightest Asiad gold hope, is axed from RP team

METRO / A25

Ex-Makati councilor presents proof of ghost employees at City Hall

NEWS / A2

Mega Pacific owners admit they bagged P78-M Comelec deal but fairly

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 25, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 319 P18 website: www.inq7.net

WHAT PRESIDENT ARROYO SAW

At twilight, the skyline of Metro Manila as seen from the lush of the greens in Antipolo is shrouded with a thick layer of pollutants. Ms Arroyo was playing golf over the weekend, and as she saw the smog rising, she was dismayed and called for a stricter enforcement of environmental laws. REM ZAMORA

Justices have made up their minds on Cha-cha

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT WILL HOLD A SPECIAL session today to decide on the people's initiative petition and, barring a lengthy debate, may issue a resolution within the day, a senior justice said yesterday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the jus-

JUSTICES/ A17

RP-Japan accord 'toxic'

Environmentalists slam swap of health workers for hospital waste

By Blanche S. Rivera

A NEW DUMP FOR TOXIC WASTE MAY SOON open for Japan—and it has 7,100 islands.

This is how concerned environmentalists see the likely effect of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) which President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed on Sept. 9 in Helsinki on the side of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

In exchange for the export of nurses and caregivers, the Philippines will allow the entry of toxic and hazardous waste under the JPEPA, according to environmentalists.

The top Philippine negotiator in the trade talks, Senior Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, told the INQUIRER that the accord covered a broad range of products. But only regulated waste would be allowed into the country once the pact is ratified by the legislatures of the two countries and goes into effect, Aquino said. *(See related story on this page.)*

This is the first time a bilateral trade and investment agreement will include and encourage trade in hazardous waste, including the highly toxic incinerator ash, a prac-

RP-JAPAN/ A23

From incinerator ash to used surgical gloves

THE JPEPA MANDATES ZERO tariff for the following types of waste as soon as the treaty takes effect:

- Ash and residue (other than from the manufacture of iron or steel) containing arsenic, mercury, thallium or their mixtures, of a kind used for the extraction of arsenic or those metals or for the manufacture of their chemical compounds.
- Ash and residue from the incineration of municipal waste.
- Waste organic solvents—halogenated.
- Pharmaceutical waste.
- Residual products of the

FROM INCINERATOR / A23

Negotiator admits prohibited waste on list

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES' CHIEF NEGOtiator in the trade talks with Japan yesterday said the agreement signed by the two countries covered a comprehensive range of products but did not necessarily mean the entry into the country of prohibited or toxic waste.

Senior Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said in an interview the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) was an "all-trade" pact, which means that all products produced in both countries are covered.

This is why waste—even the hazardous and toxic ones—is included, said Aquino.

Asked why the JPEPA talks covered items that were in the first place prohibited by Philippine law,

NEGOTIATOR/ A23

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

WOMAN'S WORK is never done. About 25 women lead the cleanup and the loading of sacks of sludge on the shores of Barangay Cabalagnan in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

GUIMARAS OIL SPILL

Fish are jumping, but living not easy

By Leila B. Salaverria

(Third of a series)

-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

FISH ARE JUMPING, BUT THE living is not easy on oil-smeared Guimaras.

Spooked by the worst environmental disaster in the nation's history following the sinking of the MT Solar I on Aug. 11 off the island-province, fishermen aren't going after what used to be the main source of their livelihood.

"There seems to be a lot of fish visible actually now from the shoreline of Guimaras and the people are just looking at them," says Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for western Visayas who is in charge of

FISH/ A22

Reinventing Guimaras: An island of unfulfilled dreams

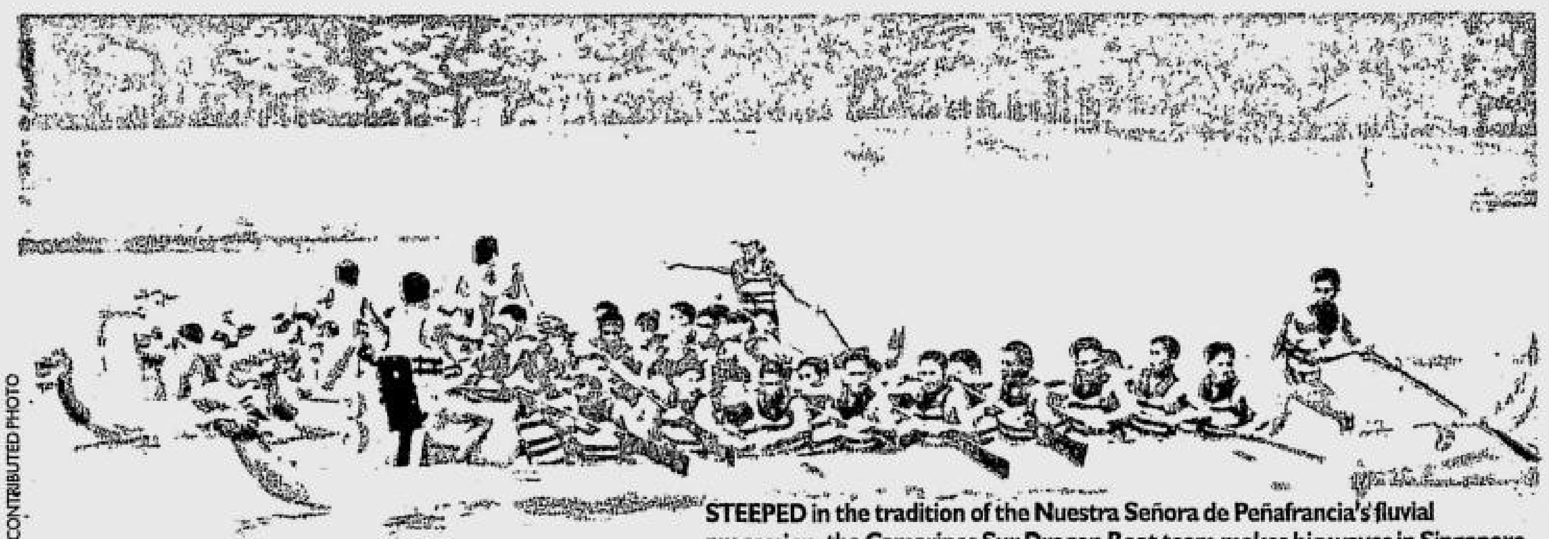
ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF SINGApore, the sleepy island-province of Guimaras has been rudely roused from its dreamy slumber by a 20th-century environmental scourge—an oil spill.

Ironically, this may also catapult it to 21st-century modernity if development plans are achieved.

By law, the island was made a province in 1992, when it belonged to the derogatory "Club 20" of the poorest provinces in the country. Unable to create jobs for lack of investments, its local government units were also unable to deliver basic services to their poorest.

Guimaras became a province after the passage of the Local Government Code that transferred to local government units (LGUs) the task of providing basic services, which the national government used to do. The law also devolved to LGU personnel,

REINVENTING/ A22



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STEEPED in the tradition of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia's fluvial procession, the Camarines Sur Dragon Boat team makes big waves in Singapore.

'Oragon' sink rivals in dragon boat race

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILI, CAMARINES SUR—ON TOP of their homegrown skills, perhaps these farmer-fishermen have the Patroness of Bicol to thank for their triumph at a multinational dragon boat race held in Singapore last month.

The local rowers, all veterans of the regattas that grew from the fluvial processions marking the annual feast of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia, defeated 39 other teams composed of Filipino and foreign nationals at the invitational Sava Sprints International.

"No one is as good as those fishermen," Aggie Luque, a Filipino working in Singapore and who rowed with the British team in that city-state, quoted a Canadian rower as saying of the Camarines Sur Dragon Boat Team (CSDBT).

"It would be really nice for everyone in the Philippines to appreciate what they did for our country. [They] set new standards in dragon boat racing," Luque said in an e-mail.

The team bagged all the first prizes in three events in the open men's division—the 250-meter and 500-m sprints and the 1,000-m race—and emerged champions of the race held on Sept. 23-24.

'ORAGON' SINK/ A6

Loren, Ping, Kiko top SWS survey

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Norman Bordadora

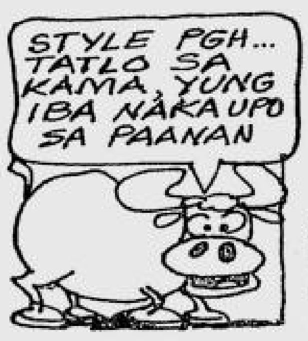
FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARDA emerged as the top choice of potential voters polled by the Social Weather Stations in its latest survey on senatorial preferences for the May 2007 elections.

There were 13 front-runners in the race for 12 Senate seats as a result of ties for the 11th and 12th slots.

They included eight opposition figures, four senators who are at times critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo and a television broadcaster, according to the SWS polling outfit.

The survey, conducted from Sept. 2 to Oct. 2, covered 46 possible senatorial candidates and involved a representative sample

LOREN/ A22



STYLE PGH... TATLO SA KAMA, YUNG IBA NAKAUPO SA PAANAN

No more room at the inn for GMA Cabinet

By Christine O. Avendaño

BECAUSE THERE MAY BE no more rooms at the inn for them, members of the Cabinet attending the Southeast Asian Summit in Cebu in December may literally have to live by the summit theme "One Caring and Sharing Community."

Which means they may

NO MORE/ A17

Second FRONT PAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/24/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'We won fair and square'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

MULTI-FORMS CORP. WON A P78-MILLION Commission on Elections printing contract "fair and square," the president of the Quezon City-based company, Johnson Fong, said yesterday.

In a phone conversation with the INQUIRER, Fong admitted he and his son, Bernard, were coowners of Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc., the firm behind the P1.3-billion deal to supply automated counting machines to the Comelec that the Supreme Court voided two years ago.

But Fong asserted there was "no connection whatsoever between the two companies."

Mega Pacific said the same thing in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

"Multi-Forms has been in the printing business for over 20 years and has established an unassailable professional reputation. We have contracted [for] various printing services, mostly through competitive bidding, with such government institutions as the Land Bank of the Philippines, PhilHealth, GSIS, SSS, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Department of Transportation and Communication, and the Department of Budget (and Management), aside from the Comelec," Fong said.

According to Mega Pacific, "while it is true that Johnson and Bernard Fong are indeed directors of the company, there is absolutely no connection whatsoever between our company and Multi-Forms. The two companies are totally separate and independent of each other."

On Sept. 4, Multi-Forms was declared the winner by the Comelec of the public bidding it conducted 10 months earlier for the printing of voter registration forms and corresponding ID cards.

Multi-Forms is one of more than 20 private printers accredited with the state-run National Printing Office (NPO).

Faustino Datu Jr., sales manager of BestForms Inc., which lost in the bidding, had brought up the Fongs' involvement in Mega Pacific.

But "there's nothing wrong with that," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. had said when informed of this.

"Assuming the Fongs in Multi-Forms and in Mega Pacific were the same persons, had they committed any wrongdoing?" Abalos had said.

BestForms had cited the Fongs in graft cases it filed three months ago against NPO officer in charge Felipe Evardone with the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

BestForms charged that Evardone had tried to enter into a negotiated contract with Multi-Forms "for the supply of carbonless security paper (although) there was no valid reason for him to resort to the alternative mode of procurement under Republic Act No. 9184 (the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2003)."

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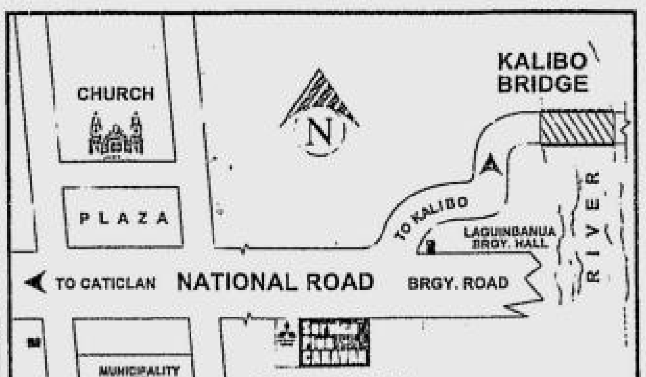

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Militant teachers to boycott plebiscite

By Alcuin Papa and Norman Bordadora

A MILITANT GROUP OF TEACHERS SAID yesterday they would refuse to serve as election officers in a plebiscite on Charter change.

"If the Supreme Court favors Sigaw ng Bayan's so-called people's initiative and a plebiscite becomes inevitable, then our members will refuse to serve as Comelec [Commission on Elections] deputies. We will also campaign vigorously to urge other teachers to join our boycott," said the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT).

The Omnibus Election Code mandates teachers, deputized by the Comelec, to serve as precinct-level poll officers. ACT has over 14,000 members nationwide.

ACT chair Antonio Tinio said the boycott would be to protest the people's initiative.

"In the first place, everyone knows that Sigaw ng Bayan's petition is a bogus people's initiative, funded by government money and coordinated by Malacañang through the Department of the Interior and Local Government," he said.

Wary of serving

Tinio said ACT members were wary of serving under the Comelec while questions of its involvement in electoral fraud in the May 2004 elections remained unanswered.

"After the Hello Garci exposé and the Mega Pacific scam, the Comelec is deservedly one of the most vilified institutions in the country ... We refuse to lend a veneer of credibility to a plebiscite supervised by such a Comelec that would merely rubber stamp the shift to a parliamentary form of government," ACT said.

Reacting to the statement of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos that teachers who refuse to serve in elections would be charged with violating election laws, ACT secretary general France Castro said the teachers were prepared to face the consequences.

Another militant group, the 1.5-million-strong Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said it will boycott a plebiscite and campaign against it if the Supreme Court decides in favor of a people's initiative to change the Constitution.

ERC answer to price-fixing: Tight controls

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATION COMMISSION said it would impose the necessary controls on the wholesale electricity spot market (Wesm) if allegations are proven that there was price manipulation during the market's third trading month, causing prices to suddenly spike.

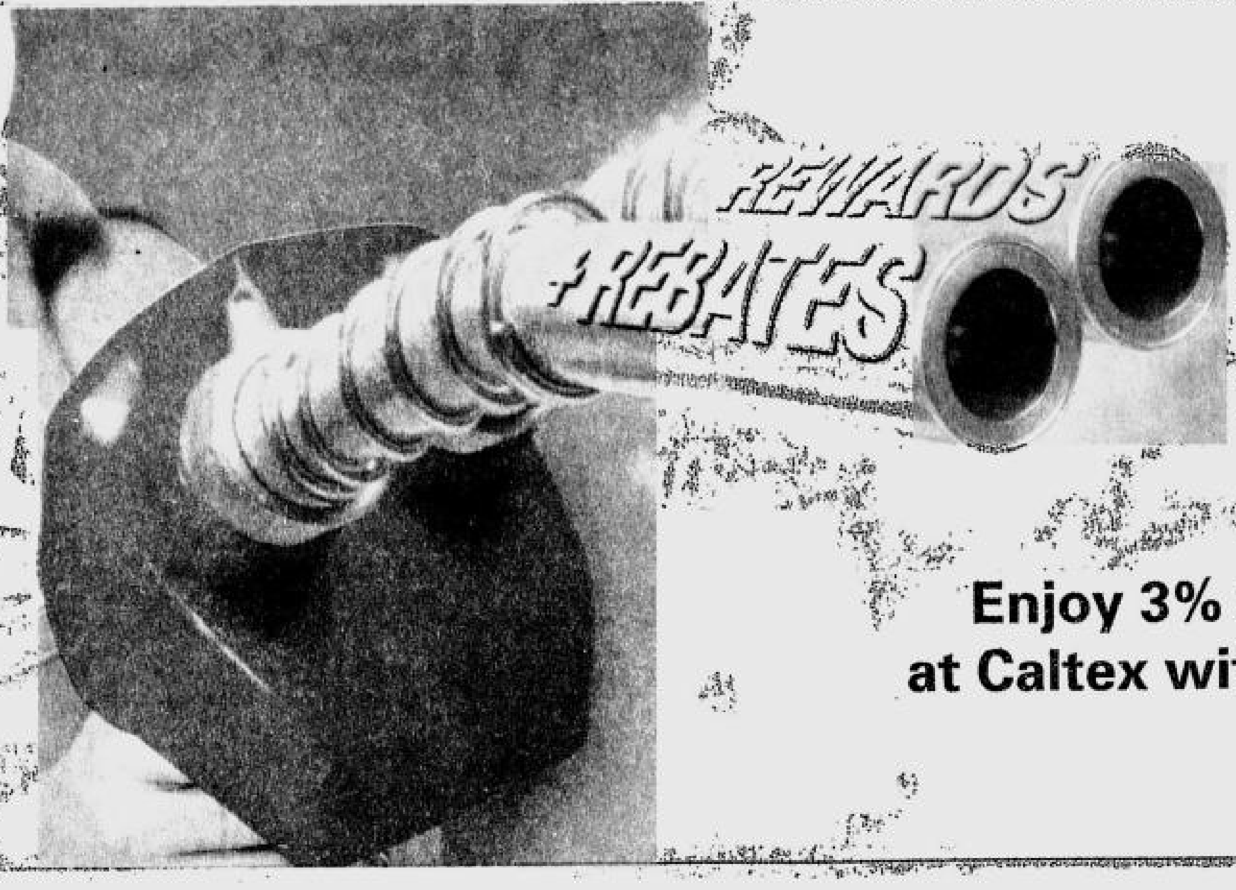
"If anticompetitive behavior is established and duly reported to the ERC, appropriate remedies such as directives to fix or control the price will be issued and the appropriate penalties imposed, after observance of the requirements of due process," said ERC commissioner and officer-in-charge Alejandro Barin.

The ERC is waiting for the Wesm operator, Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), to finish its investigation of its suspicions of price manipulation at the spot market from Aug. 26 to Sept. 25.

"The ERC will evaluate and validate the PEMC's report, according to set procedures," Barin said.

He said that contrary to criticisms, the ERC has never been remiss in its duties, particularly in ensuring that competition is fair and that no single entity benefits from market power.

The operative regulations are the "Competition Rules and Complaint Procedures," which penalize abuse of market power or anticompetitive behavior in the Wesm.



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CHANGING THE COURSE OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY

OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE IN THE HANDS OF 15 GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

It is an awesome responsibility that history has placed on the 15 illustrious men and women of our Supreme Court. Their decision on Constitutional change could literally change the course of our country's history.

Will we continue to deserve our liberty—or will our country fall into a renewed interval of tyranny?

Can we bridge the income and social gap that has made of our country "Two Nations"—one of the Privileged and the other of the People?

Will the masses of Filipinos continue to pass down to their children only an inheritance of poverty?

Or can Filipino families look forward to decent jobs and living incomes here in our own country?

WHAT COMFORT FOR THOSE WHOM DEVELOPMENT HAS LEFT BEHIND?

What are we to say to the millions of our peasants still yoked to the land—to children in substandard schools—to young Filipinos who can find no new heroes they can look up to?

And how are we to console the millions of our men and women who have exiled themselves to foreign lands—who at every moment ache for the warmth of their homes and the love of their spouses and their children?

What comfort can we offer to those among our people whom development has left behind?

WE MUST SEND OUT A COLLECTIVE MESSAGE OF HOPE TO OUR PEOPLE

We who claim to lead this country—in the Executive Branch, the Legislature, and the Judiciary—must send out a collective message of hope to our people.

During these next 10, 15 years, our country must complete its modernization—or forever remain an economic and political backwater of East Asia.

We must assure the least among our people that politics can begin to work—not just for politicians—and not just for the rich—but for every citizen.

WE MUST REAWAKEN THE FILIPINO'S SENSE OF PRIDE IN OUR COUNTRY

We must prove to those who look up to us for leadership that Government can become not just part of the problem but part of the solution.

And we must reawaken the sense of pride in our country—and the civic responsibility—that lies in every Filipino's breast.

For there is nothing that we as a people can not do together—for as long as we have the faith, the will, and the heart.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the choice before us is this: Will our national future be one of liberty and prosperity, or will it be one of authoritarianism and economic stagnation?

Judge Learned Hand, discoursing memorably on *The Spirit of Liberty,* wrote: "Liberty, liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it."

God bless our Supreme Court, God bless our people, and God bless our country!

Excerpted from a speech delivered by the Honorable Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives, at the Closing Ceremonies of the Global Forum on "Liberty and Prosperity," sponsored by the Supreme Court of the Philippines, on 20 October 2006, in Makati, Metro Manila.

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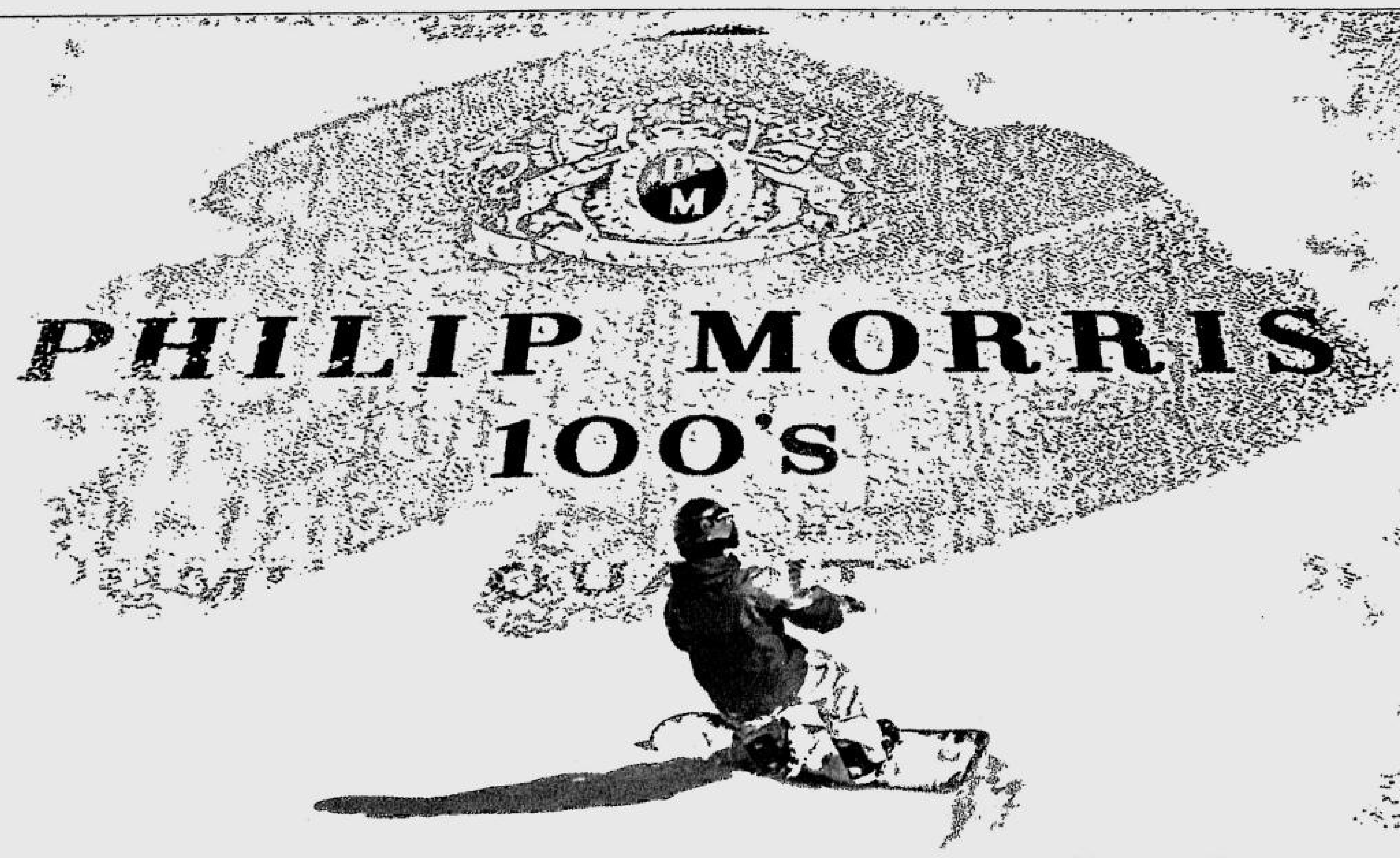

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1 Promotion period is from October 9 to November 19, 2006.

2 Only adult smokers 18 years old and above (as of October 1, 2006), who are Philippine residents, can enter the PHILIP MORRIS "Win a Winter Holiday" promotion.

3. To enter the draw, write your name, address age (as of October 1, 2006), telephone number and signature on the back of an empty pack of any Philip Morris variant To entitle your favorite retail store/outlet to cash prizes you may also include the name and address of said retail store/outlet and the name of the store owner in your empty pack entry.

4 Only genuine and original Philip Morris packs – manufactured by Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) purchased in the Philippines, and bearing the Philippine Government health warning and pack seal with complete information requested in item 3, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.

5 No photocopies or counterfeits of Philip Morris packs will be allowed Once submitted, all Philip Morris packs will become the property of PMPMI, including the right to edit, publish, and use the information therein without any consideration or payment to the participant. Raffle entries will not be acknowledged or returned.

6 Drop your entries in drop boxes at authorized retail outlets/drop centers or mail to:

PHILIP MORRIS "WIN A WINTER HOLIDAY" PROMO
c/o Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.
MCC P.O Box 2338
1226 Makati City

7 All entries must be received by PMPMI not later than November 19, 2006 PMPMI and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, or late entries.

8 The draw will be held on December 9, 2006 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.

The following prizes will be drawn with the corresponding cash prize for the store/outlet owner:

Quantity	Prize	Cash Prize for Store/Outlet Owner
1	Trip for 2 to any winter destination	Php 75,000
10	Sony Ericsson K800i mobile phones	Php 10,000 each
30	Sony DSC-W50 digital cameras	Not applicable
80	Oakley Spike eyewear	Not applicable
120	Samsonite Inventure Duffle Bag	Not applicable

9. The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than December 25, 2006 Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes By participating the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Advertisement

10. Store/outlet owners have a chance to win cash prizes only for the Trip Sony Ericsson W900i and Sony Cybershot T5 prizes. To qualify, the store/outlet owner must be at least 18 years old In the event that the winner is also the store/outlet owner, he or she gets to win both the corresponding prize and the cash prize for the store/outlet.

11. If a winning entry does not bear the name and address of the store/outlet, the entry will still be valid but no store/outlet winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.

12. Prizes for winning adult smokers and store/outlet owners will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD

13 The grand prize (Trip for 2 to any winter destination) is non-transferable, but is convertible to cash. In the event the winner fails to secure/ complete necessary documents for the trip such as passport or visa, and/ or does not want to take the trip, the monetary equivalent of the trip which is Php 500,000 shall be awarded The Php 500,000 will be paid to the winner via check. Minor prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

14 Grand prize winner should avail of the trip before December 30, 2007 They will be provided roundtrip air transportation to the country of choice, accommodations, regular daily meals local transportation and other provisions as may be determined by PMPMI Total cost for the trip for 2 should not exceed Php 500,000

15. PMPMI reserves the right to change the dates, location, and events comprised in the trip or to cancel the trip if prevented or restricted from conducting the trip for reasons outside the control of PMPMI. In the event the trip is cancelled in its entirety, PMPMI will substitute the trip with Php 500,000.

16 Prior to going to the trip, grand prize winner and his/her companion will be required to execute or furnish such documentation as PMPMI may require, including but not limited to good health report, complete liability release, indemnification and waiver, and complete publicity release and undertaking.

17 Grand prize winner must have a valid Philippine passport and be eligible for and successfully secure a visa for the country chosen for the trip. PMPMI does not undertake nor guarantee the issuance of any visa to any of the winners It will be the sole responsibility of all trip winners to secure their respective visas PMPMI, however, will provide trip winners written certification pertinent to winning the raffle promotion Non-eligibility or failure to secure the above mentioned travel documents will result in the awarding of Php 500,000 as monetary equivalent of the trip. All expenditures (e.g transportation, lodging, fees etc), that may be incurred in the procurement of their respective visas will be shouldered by the participants

18 In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from PMPMI and two (2) original and valid identification documents [Driver's license, Passport, Birth Certificate] and Tax Identification Number (TIN) The IDs presented (singly or collectively) should show the following information below. If the IDs submitted do not contain the following three (3) pieces of information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth or Age
- Signature

19 In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to PMPMI, he/she must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity, and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city

20. In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim the prize for any reason, he/she can send a proxy The proxy should be able to present the following:
- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 18)
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy.
- Original copy of the notification telegram from PMPMI.

21. Except as expressly provided in paragraph 10, an entrant can only win once. If a person is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of the higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.

22 Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. PMPMI and its agents will not be liable with respect to (i) any death or injury or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of any prize, (ii) any dealer's refusal to honor any warranty.

23 Prizes are subject to availability and supplier's restrictions. PMPMI may, without notice, withdraw or substitute any prize with comparable value and nature.

24 PMPMI will only pay final withholding taxes on a prize amounting to more than PhP 10,000. Except as expressly provided herein, PMPMI will not be liable to the winners for any taxes, costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of ownership or use of the prizes.

25. All decisions of PMPMI and its agents are final and no objections will be entertained.

26. Employees of PMPMI, their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agencies, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and DOH-BFAD are not eligible to participate in this promotion.

27 These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government direction and regulation The promotion will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Venue of any action arising under this promotion shall be brought solely in the proper courts of Makati City, all other available venues of suit being waived.

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See flyers for details.
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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

'Oragon' sink rivals in dragon boat race

From page A1

Event 12	SAVA Sprints International Mens' Open	Time: 1100	Heats 2
Lane	Team Name	Position	Timing
1	Penang Forward	2	2'05 79
2	Canadian Dragons A	4	2'08 71
3	Tanker Pacific	6	2'17 13
4	Singapore Polytechnic 2	5	2'16 47
5	Camarines Sur Dragon Boat Team	1	1'55 88
6	Singapore Paddle Club A	3	2'06 12

The Philippine National Police Rowing Team, which the CSDBT had thrice defeated in the open men's division in an earlier race held in their home country, captured two championships in the mixed and special divisions wherein the CSDBT had no entry.

The CSDBT won again in a similar competition in Manila about two weeks ago, and is now preparing for another race in China.

Daily routine

The CSDBT is composed of farmer-fishermen living in the villages bordering the Bicol River and the San Miguel Bay.

During the annual Peñafrancia celebration in mid-September, their daily routine of navigating the meandering Bicol River in a *baroto* (a canoe-like boat hollowed out of a tree trunk) becomes a sporting event as they join the regatta in honor of the Virgin Mary.

They all learned to row when they were children, unlike the other rowers in the Sava competition who took up the paddle only as adults.

According to Honesto Bermudo, village chief of Mangayawan and an original member of the team, the CSDBT got into dragon boat racing only this year.

And the result was excellent, as Luque observed: "The [Camarines Sur rowers] left everyone in the dust—or should I say water spray? They were really, really good. All the other teams were in awe [of them]."

CSDBT member Rogelio Morales, 38, said he and his teammates had been joining the yearly regatta since 1996.

He won the first prize in the single 1,000-m race for seven consecutive years—from 1996 to 2002—during the Peñafrancia fiesta.

But it was only early in 2000 that he and his teammates learned the value of teamwork in a boat race, Morales said. At that time, the provincial government of Camarines Sur launched a regatta in Caramoan, a tourist site known for its islets, coves and white beaches.

With what they had learned in Caramoan, Morales and his comrades did not take long to adjust to the requirements of the dragon boat race.

SAVA SPRINTS INTERNATIONAL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"NO ONE is as good as those fishermen," an awed Canadian rower said of the Camarines Sur team after besting 39 other teams. The Filipinos bagged all the first prizes in three events in the open men's division.

Per the account of team coach Ruben Brazal, the players in the Singapore competition numbered 15,000 for the intercollegiate, men's and women's categories.

Among the players were British, Canadian, Thai, Russian, Singaporean and Dutch nationals.

Two teams from the Philippines entered the top-three rank in the open men's division—the CSDBT and the PNP Rowing Team, which made it to third place (after Singapore's Pacific West team, which placed second).

The other Filipino teams that saw action were the Aqua Fire Rowing Team, Philippine Youth Rowing Organization, Metrobank Boysen Dragon Boat Team, and Manila Dragons.

Assistant coach Bermudo said the CSDBT made identical time—1.55.88—in the 500-m preliminary and semifinal. It breached its two previous time records in the same event during the finals at 1.55.14.

Bermudo, 39, said the team outpaced the runner-up team by five to 10 meters to the finish line.

"We started with sprint and tried to sustain or increase our acceleration even when we were far ahead of the second lead to test our limits," he said.

In the 500-m sprint and the 1,000-m race, he said, the CSDBT always bolted from the pack at a 300-m stretch and breezed to the finish line.

First races

Bermudo said the team's first dragon boat race, held at the Baywalk in March, was upon the invitation of the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation.

It had no practice, but it landed in third place.

According to Bermudo, 22 rowers were selected from a pool of around 400 locals always ready to take part in a rowing competition—"regular guys from coastal communities who work in their small farms and at the same time fish for a living."

On May 7, the CSDBT was again invited to join the Atienza Cup, where it bagged its first championship trophy.

Less than a week later, on May 12-13, the team joined the Boracay dragon boat race, where it engaged the PNP Rowing Team. It emerged champion, and the latter placed second.

Gov't support

Bermudo said that for the team's participation in the Singapore event, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte approved a budget for training, operational, travel and accommodation expenses under the provincial government's sports development program.

The team practiced three hours a day for 22 days, rowing 1,000-m stretches downstream and upstream of the Bicol River in a used 18-paddle dragon boat donated by the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation, Bermudo said.

(A brand-new dragon boat could cost as much as P250,000, and a single paddle, P1,000.)

Bermudo said his team arrived in Singapore on the night of Sept. 22 and started racing in the morning of the next day.

"I was a bit worried because some of our teammates were still groggy from the air travel, and we had no more time to practice," he said.

But that, as they say, is all water under the bridge.

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Businesses lost P43M in NPA raids – AFP

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BUSINESSES LOST AT least P43 million in raids by the communist New People's Army in the third quarter of the year, the military has reported.

Rebels destroyed 17 relay and communication towers worth P14.11 million from January to September, military data showed.

The communications firm Globe owned 16 of the towers, while Digital Communications owned one.

The military also recorded 16 attacks on plantations and construction and mining sites in the same period.

Rebels burned P23.95 million worth of heavy equipment like bulldozers, backhoes, dump trucks, delivery trucks and generators.

Transport companies also lost P5 million after suspected communist guerrillas burned five buses in the same period.

According to the military, Globe lost four towers in Northern Luzon, five in Southern Tagalog, four in Central Visayas, two in Eastern Mindanao and one in Western Mindanao.

The attacks were believed to be reprisal for the companies' refusal to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the rebels.

In June, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the police and military to secure businesses threatened by the rebels as she declared a renewed counterinsurgency campaign.

Attacks continued, however, with rebels burning another Globe tower in Panabo City in Davao del Norte on Oct. 21.

Earlier, on Oct. 8, NPA rebels attacked an airport construction site in Silay City in Negros Occidental. Damage was estimated at P30 million.

A people's organization, meanwhile, has urged the administration to pursue its plan to find the financial backers of the Communist Party of the Philippines abroad to shut off its foreign funding.

Pray for the Nation, Respect Authority, Obey the Constitution, Oust Rebellion to Declare Effective Rulership (Pro-Order) said "cutting off the CPP-NPA's links to its overseas funding sources would go a long way in helping the government finally lick Asia's longest-running communist insurgency."

"Malacañang should doggedly pursue its plan to harness the Anti-Money Laundering Council in hunting down the overseas financiers of, and closing the taps on their illicit contributions to the local communist movement," said Manila Councilor Greppor "Butch" Belgica, Pro-Order president. *With Norman Bordadora*

Alex Fernando, Star editor; 48

VETERAN JOURNALIST Alex M. Fernando of the Philippine Star and PM died in his sleep on Monday morning at the age of 48.

Fernando began his journalistic career at the Dawn, the student newspaper of the University of the East where he served as editor in chief from 1978 to 1979. At about the same time, he worked with the now defunct WE Forum while he was still an undergraduate English major. The following year, he worked for the now defunct Times Journal and later for People's Journal.

In 1986, he moved to the now defunct Daily Tribune but transferred the same year to a newspaper that had just opened, the Philippine Star. From deskman, Fernando moved up the Star's editorial ladder to become deputy managing editor, the position he held when he died.

Fernando is survived by his wife Ma. Victoria, son Martin Alec and daughters Michelle Agnes and Mariel Angeli. His remains lie at the National Press Club until today when he will be transferred to the Star offices in Port Area for another night. He will be brought his hometown of Bustos, Bulacan tomorrow. Interment will be announced later.

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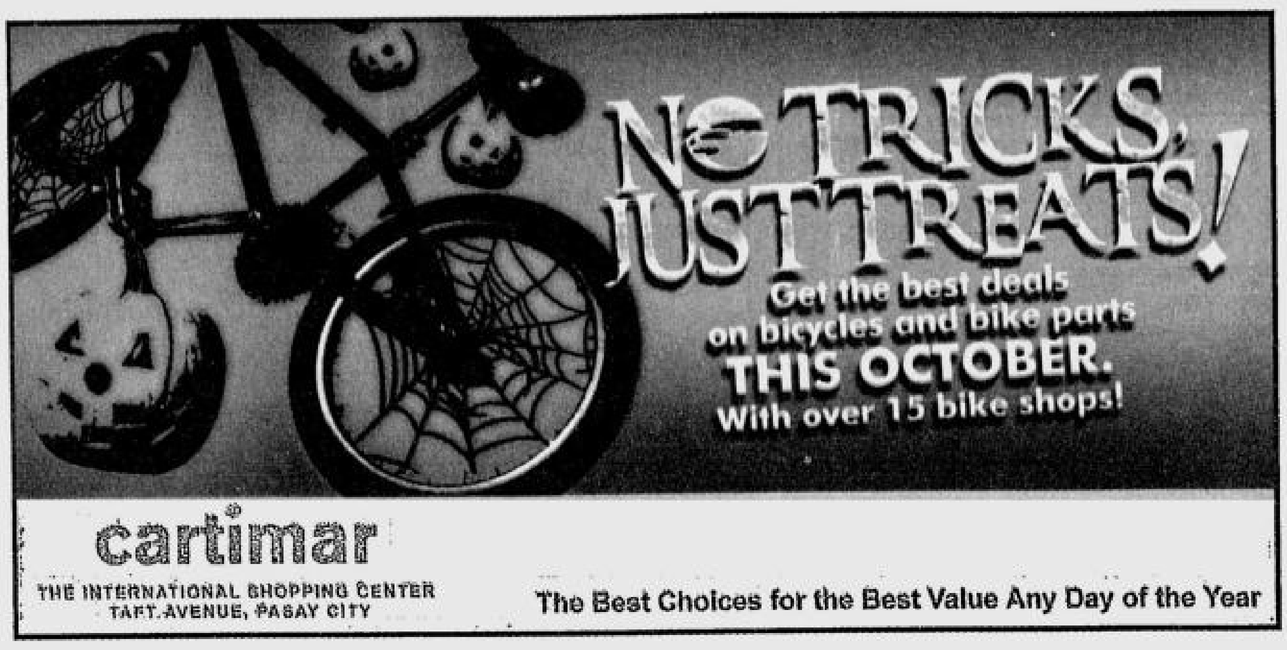

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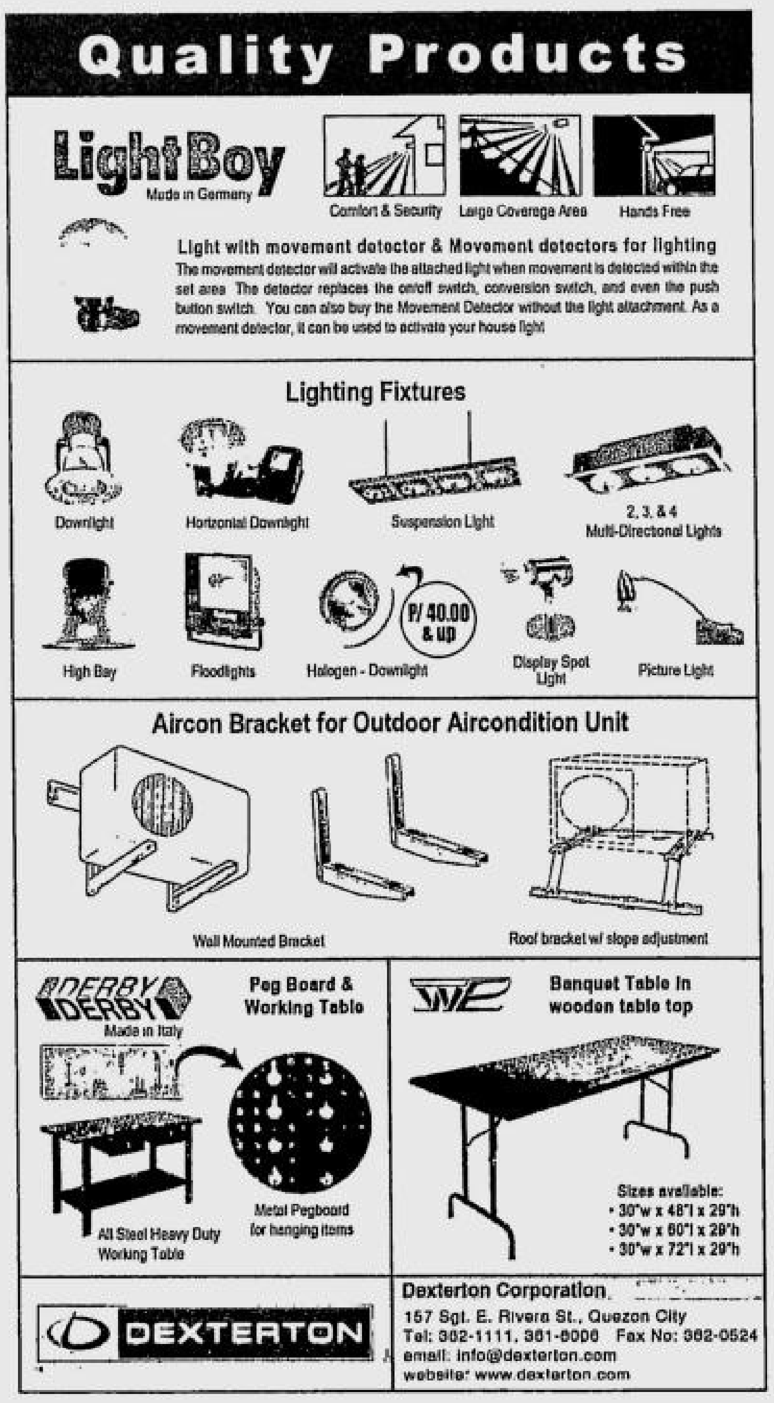

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Bill gives more benefits to disabled

THE HOUSE OF REPresentatives has amended the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons to give additional benefits and privileges to the disabled.

The bill provides for the exemption of the disabled from the payment of individual income tax, if their yearly income does not exceed the poverty level.

Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar is the author of House Bill 1214, which amended Republic Act 7277, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

"Persons with disabilities comprise one of the more neglected sectors of our community," said Villar.

She said government has to establish an agency whose responsibility would be to formulate programs designed to integrate the disabled into mainstream society.

If passed by the Senate and signed into law, the measure will grant the disabled the same privileges being enjoyed by senior citizens, like the 20 percent discount in restaurants, medicines, medical and hospital services, and transportation and travel, among other things.

Michael Lim Ubac

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 22 ISsue, a story on Page A11—"Farming losing appeal, says Bhutan exec"—misstated Eladio Jala's position. Jala is the congressman representing Bohol's third district—not a mere participant in the three-day, five-nation congress held in Bilar, Bohol, on Oct. 18-20 in observance of World Food Day.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 24 ISSUE, a story on Page A2 carried the erroneous headline—"Abalos assures 2006 polls will take place." The next legislative and local elections are scheduled in 2007—not 2006.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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To unify the documents required in availing of PhilHealth benefits with those being required in membership registration, an updated "List of Documentary Requirements in the Availment of PhilHealth Benefits" is hereby issued. PhilHealth may, however, require other or additional document/s that are deemed necessary for a more accurate evaluation of benefits claims.

This Circular amends PhilHealth Circular No. 18 s-2003 and shall be applicable to all admissions effective January 1, 2007. All other provisions of said Circular and all other issuances that are consistent with this shall remain in full force and effect.

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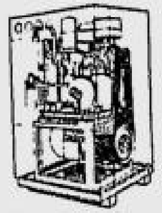

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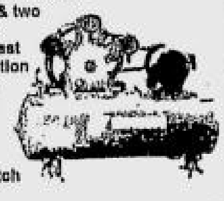

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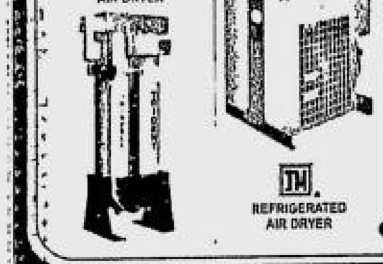

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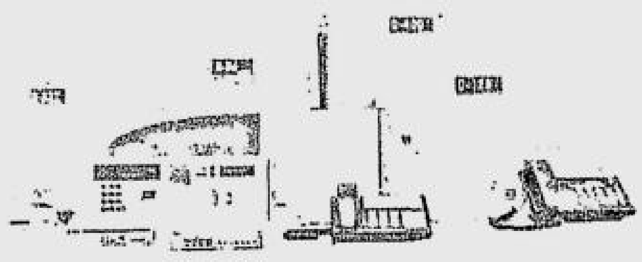

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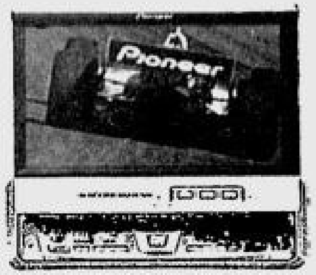

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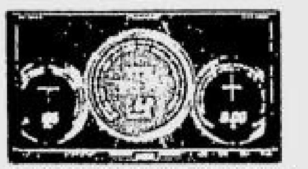

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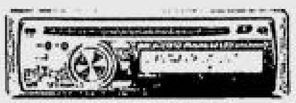

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 25, 2006
29th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Eph 3:2-12
Gospel: Luke 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if his master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

But it may be that the steward thinks: 'My Lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the men servants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he doesn't know. He will discharge his servant and number him among the unreliable.

The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what his master wanted, will be punished with sound blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

Commentary

The mystery of Christ is limitless, yet revealed in the Gospel and by the Spirit, to prophets, apostles and numberless people. We are servants of the Gospel: to proclaim and to explain, to delve into the mystery once hidden but is now wisdom that can be known endlessly in Jesus. Are we awake, on our guard, waiting for the Son of Man, the mystery of God's presence with us, to burst in upon us? We've been given a share in the household as servants and so much has been given to us. What are we doing with this gift shared among us? What does our God expect of us today, in economics, politics, among the poor, sharing with the world as truth?

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Billboards on private property are next target

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH MOST OF THE billboards on government property in Metro Manila dismantled, the Department of Public Works and Highways has turned its attention to illegal or hazardous outdoor advertisements on private property.

Taking down billboards on private property, however, will not be as easy nor as quick as removing those on public land.

First, authorities will have to notify owners that their billboards pose a hazard and have violated the law. Owners will be given a chance to dismantle the structures themselves, according to Emmanuel Cuntapay, director of the DPWH's National Building Code Development Office.

Cuntapay said the DPWH would only step in if owners fail to remove the structures in five days or if the billboards had been abandoned.

On the other hand, billboards in government compounds found on road right-of-way needed no prior notice, he added. Billboards on public property considered hazardous would also be removed at once.

Although it would take a longer time to dismantle advertising structures on private property, Cuntapay said the operation was unlikely to affect traffic flow.

"It's unlikely to cause traffic because we would not be working along the road. [Although] nosy people watching the removal could hamper the traffic flow," he said in a phone interview, adding that most of the billboards on private property are usually located on rooftops.

The removal of billboards encroaching on road right-of-way, including those on the Metro Rail Transit Line that traverses Edsa, snarled traffic along major thoroughfares because the operatives and the safety equipment took up road space.

The DPWH again called on the public to bear with the heavy traffic flow, citing the need to dismantle illegal and hazardous structures so they would not cause harm should another typhoon hit the country. It promised to confine operations outside rush hours.

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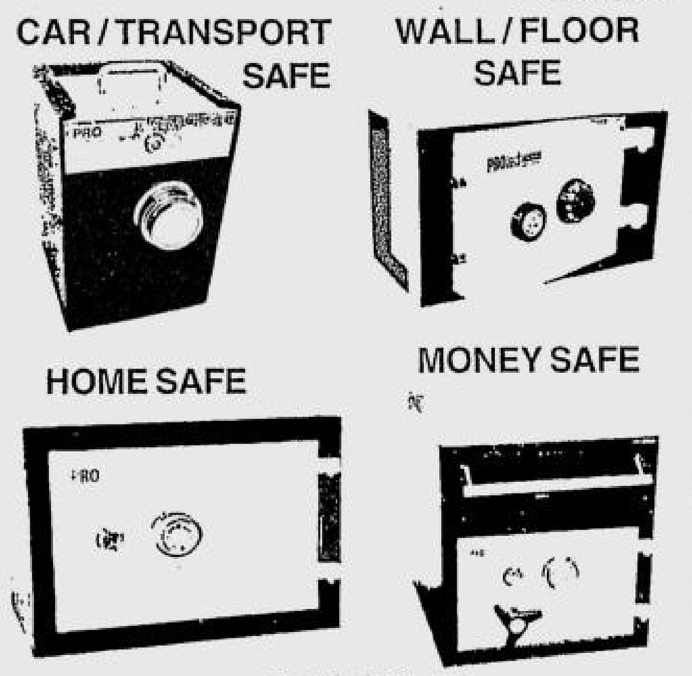

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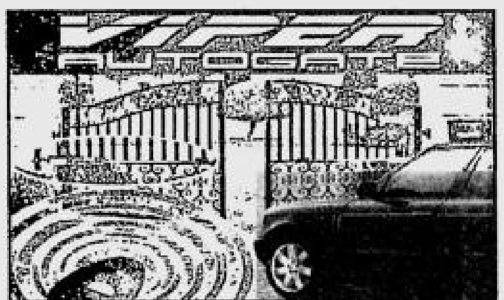

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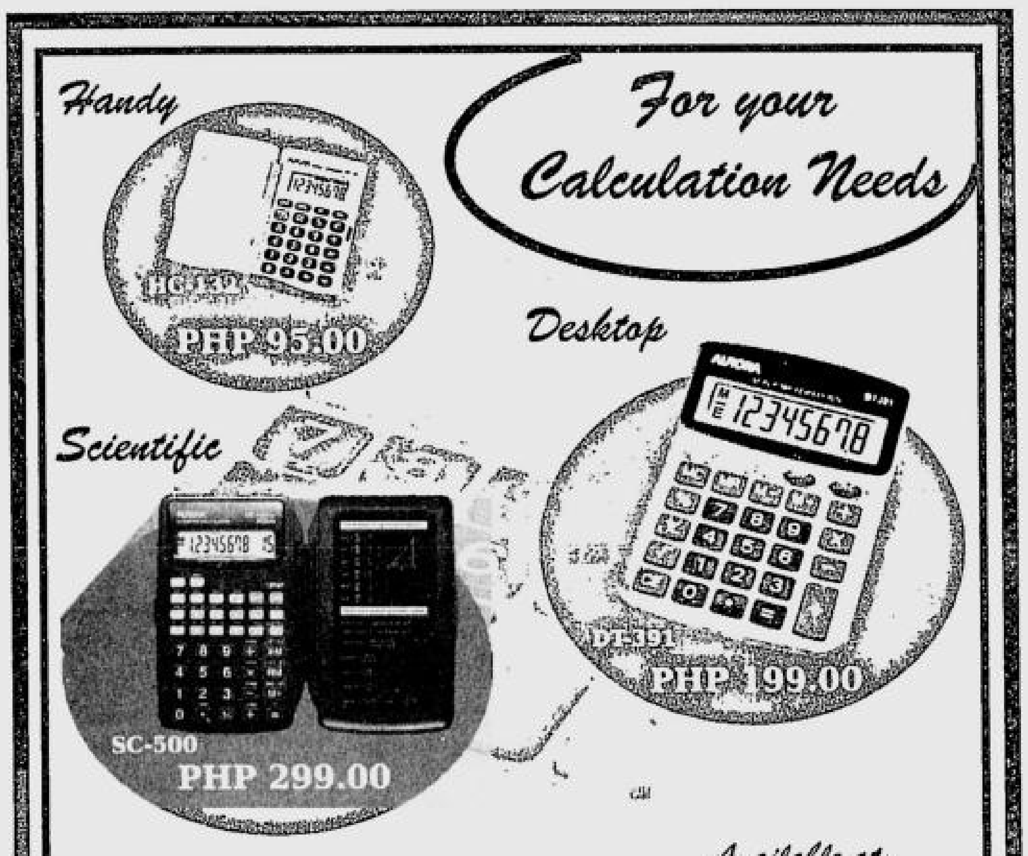

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AFP probers of Lim et al. miss deadline

MILITARY PROSECUTORS FAILED TO MEET the deadline set by Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. to make a recommendation on whether former Scout Ranger Chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and 37 other officers implicated in the Feb. 24 coup plot should be tried in a court martial.

Esperon expected to receive the report of the three-man pretrial investigation panel from the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) yesterday.

But Col. Al Perreras, Jago deputy chief and head of the PTI panel, has asked for more time to "review" the report.

"I talked to Perreras. He said he wanted to review what he has written. I agreed because we have to be very thorough about it," Esperon said in a phone interview.

But he said he expects the report to "come out this week."

But a source close to the case said a draft report that the panel had shown Esperon failed to get the AFP chief's approval.

Perreras could not be reached for comment.

Esperon has been saying since September that he expected the investigators to submit a recommendation on whether Lim and 37 other officers should be tried by court martial "within the week."

Last Friday, Esperon said he asked Judge Advocate General Col. Nemesio Dabal about the report, and was told he would get the report the following day.

No report was submitted that day, and a military spokesperson said Esperon expected to get the report yesterday, Oct. 24.

Esperon, who was the Army commanding general during the Feb. 24 failed coup, has hinted broadly that he would overrule any recommendation to absolve the accused officers.

He has submitted an affidavit to the Jago alleging that Lim, the former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin planned to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo through a military withdrawal of support.

Esperon has also said Lim's videotaped declaration withdrawing support from the President was "incontrovertible" evidence against him.

He has vowed to immediately go over the Jago report and decide whether to convene a general court martial.

"There's overwhelming evidence, unless I'm disproved," he has said.

Lim and 24 Scout Ranger officers, and Miranda and 12 Marine officers are being investigated for alleged "attempt to begin a mutiny." *Dona Pazzibugan*

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2	GRAND BOULEVARD HOTEL/ SILAHIS INTERNATIONAL HOTEL INC./ PACIFIC HOTEL CORP/ HOTEL SOFITEL	117-13-701-004-008 117-13-701-004-001 117-13-701-004-001-B1 117-13-701-004-001-M1	ROXAS BLVD	6,444.10	10, 51-B	567	LAND LAND IMP. MAC.		1998(3,4) ADDT'L to 2005	2,331,951.82 6,590,358.50 39,043,617.19 5,165,831.48	1,540,460.53 4,173,281.78 22,659,906.06 3,412,781.58	387,241.24 1,076,364.03 6,170,352.33 857,861.31	4,259,653.59 11,840,004.31 67,873,875.58 9,436,474.37
3	RODIL ENTERPRISE CO. INC.	117-09-269-003-038	COR. M. DE SANTOS & P. CHAVEZ STS.	1,031.30	1 & 2	1896	LAND		1979-2005	4,000,781.10	4,807,163.94	880,794.50	9,688,739.54
		117-09-269-003-038-B1	COR. M. DE SANTOS & P. CHAVEZ STS.		1 & 2	1896	IMP.		1979-2005	5,335,985.24	6,118,528.68	1,145,451.39	12,599,965.31
4	WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ	117-01-986-001-001-M15	MICT COMPOUND		PIER 18	NH	MAC.		2001-2005	2,505,360.00	1,553,323.20	405,868.32	4,464,551.52
		117-01-986-001-001-M14	MICT COMPOUND		PIER 18	NH	MAC.		1997-2005	14,741,952.50	9,552,785.23	2,429,473.77	26,724,211.50
		117-01-986-001-001-M16	MICT COMPOUND		PIER 18	NH	MAC.		2002-2005	2,248,442.20	1,349,065.30	359,750.75	3,957,258.25
		117-01-986-001-001-M13	MICT COMPOUND		PIER 14	NH	MAC.		1997-2005	6,223,195.00	4,032,630.20	1,025,582.52	11,281,407.72
5	AMBASSADOR HOTEL INC.	117-13-701-005-003-B1	A. MABINI ST.		10-A, 10-B	569	IMP.		1998-2005	7,780,128.50	5,066,194.19	1,284,632.27	14,130,954.96
		117-13-701-005-003-M1	COR M.H. DEL PILAR & MABINI STS.		10-A, 10-B	569	MAC.		1997(2-4)-2005	640,510.35	421,751.49	106,226.18	1,168,488.02
6	REYES, WILLIE	117-01-018-002-008-B1	DELPAN ST.		4	4	IMP.		1991-05	79,270.07	68,477.71	14,774.78	162,522.56
7	SALCEDO, ALICIA L m/t FELIMON ET	117-01-262-001-009	MAYHALIGUE ST.	122.50	10-B	2511	LAND		1997-05	53,088.00	35,038.09	8,812.61	96,938.70
		117-01-264-002-068	MAYHALIGUE ST.	2,111.80	2-B	2814	LAND		1997-05	811,152.00	535,360.31	134,651.23	1,481,163.54
8	LORES REALTY ENT INC	117-03-401-002-003	M. EARNSHAW ST.	1,137.00	2-C	4019	LAND	65405	2000-05	159,776.75	101,344.11	26,112.09	287,232.95
		117-03-401-002-004	M. EARNSHAW ST.	1,128.00	2-B	4019	LAND	65404	2000-05	158,511.50	100,541.58	25,905.31	284,958.39
		117-03-401-002-004-B1	M. EARNSHAW ST.		2-B	4019	IMP.		2000-05	42,782.95	27,674.50	7,045.75	77,503.20
		117-03-401-002-005	M. EARNSHAW ST.	1,325.00	2-A	4019	LAND		2000-05	188,251.00	119,404.92	30,765.59	338,421.51
	-	117-03-401-002-005-B1	M. EARNSHAW ST.		2-A	4019	IMP.		2000-05	126,504.00	79,920.00	20,642.40	227,066.40
9	SEVILLA, LOURDES S. ET AL	117-03-403-002-001	GASTAMBIDE ST.	631.93			LAND		2001-05	124,985.10	77,490.77	20,247.59	222,723.46
		117-03-403-002-001-B1	GASTAMBIDE ST.				IMP.		2001-05	435,321.71	268,943.91	70,426.56	774,692.18
10	SEVILLA, LOURDES S.	117-03-403-002-004-B1	565-67 MV DELOS SANTOS		7	4007	IMP.		2003-05	70,981.80	40,298.43	11,128.02	122,408.25
11	ZABALLERO & GONZALES,	117-03-403-002-010	M V DELOS SANTOS	298.45	3	4007	LAND		1998-05	121,043.40	79,081.72	20,012.51	220,137.63
		117-03-403-002-010-B1	M V DELOS SANTOS		3	4007	IMP.		1999-05	178,256.88	112,446.00	29,070.29	319,773.17
12	MORABE, ALIPIO	117-03-443-001-068-B1	ALGECIRAS ST.		38 C, D	RP-42	IMP.		2002-05	66,531.06	39,759.64	10,629.07	116,919.77
13	CRUZ, JENNY A.	117-03-453-001-036-B1	V.G. CRUZ ST.		41	RP-50	IMP.		2003-05	103,848.08	59,958.70	16,380.68	180,187.46
14	METRADO, FELICIDAD	117-03-512-001-019-B1	MAKAMISA ST.		54	57	IMP.		1997-05	338,984.60	222,387.20	56,137.18	617,508.98
15	VIOLA, MAXIMO	117-13-689-001-008	GEN. MALVAR	197.50	8 PCS	513/1	LAND		1990-05	59,142.19	48,199.06	10,734.13	118,075.38
	VIOLA, MAXIMO	117-13-689-001-008-B1	GEN. MALVAR		8 PCS	513/1	IMP.		1990-05	33,735.96	33,435.10	6,717.11	73,888.17
16	TUASON & PRINCIPE, PACITA	117-13-709-001-014	AGNO ST.	775.00	1 PCS B-	573	LAND		2003-05	223,273.13	125,032.95	34,830.61	383,136.69
		117-13-709-001-014-B1	AGNO ST.		1 PCS B-	573	IMP.		2003-05	6,324.43	3,581.02	990.55	10,896.00
17	LIM, VICENTA VDA DE	117-13-709-004-002-B3	TAFT AVE.		46 & 47	573	IMP.		1974-05	141,227.22	217,796.40	35,902.36	394,925.98
18	HARMONY HOMES c/o LEONIDA ORT	117-13-729-001-018-B20	SANDEJAS ST.	0.00	8	618	IMP.		1985-05	36,514.27	60,437.70	9,695.20	106,647.17
19	HARMONY HOMES c/o LAURENCH G	117-13-729-001-018-B21	SANDEJAS ST.		8	618	IMP.		1985-05	58,809.40	99,206.85	15,801.63	173,817.88
20	LALISAN, ZENAIDA ET AL	117-05-823-002-002	CANONIGO (INT)	491.20	12-B	904	LAND		1995-05	132,976.00	89,320.42	22,229.64	244,526.06
21	CONCEPCION, JOSEFINA VDA DE	117-05-823-002-017	RD LOT	867.60	12-E	904	LAND		1974-05	238,689.00	276,641.76	51,533.08	566,863.84
									GRAND TOTAL	103,229,915.17	69,369,000.95	17,259,891.61	189,858,807.73

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Indon quake rocks South, triggers waves

By Blanche S. Rivera

AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale was detected in waters off southeastern Mindanao on Tuesday. No damage was reported but volcanologists are expecting aftershocks and moderately high waves.

The quake, with its epicenter traced to Indonesia's Sangihe Trench was felt at intensity four in the Balut Island in Sarangani; intensity three in General Santos City; and intensity two in Davao City.

"A magnitude 6.2 quake is a small cut-off from a tsunami-causing event, but this is not expected to generate destructive tsunamis, which mean waves of at least one meter high," said the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs)

Phivolcs seismology chief Ishmael Narag said in a phone interview that .3- or .5-meter waves as a result of the quake would be abnormal but not destructive.

He said aftershocks were not likely to affect Mindanao because the nearest cities were still too far from the Sangihe Trench, where the movement of plates caused the tectonic quake.

Narag said three moderate quakes registering magnitude five were recorded Monday before the stronger event at 11:03 a.m. yesterday.

A weaker earthquake caused by movements in the Lubang fault last Friday was felt in Marinduque, Mindoro, Batangas and certain parts of Metro Manila. As of Sunday, the 5.2 quake generated at least 591 aftershocks of which only six were felt.

The Philippines sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where continental plates meet, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity. An average of 10 quakes hit the country everyday but few are strong enough to be felt.

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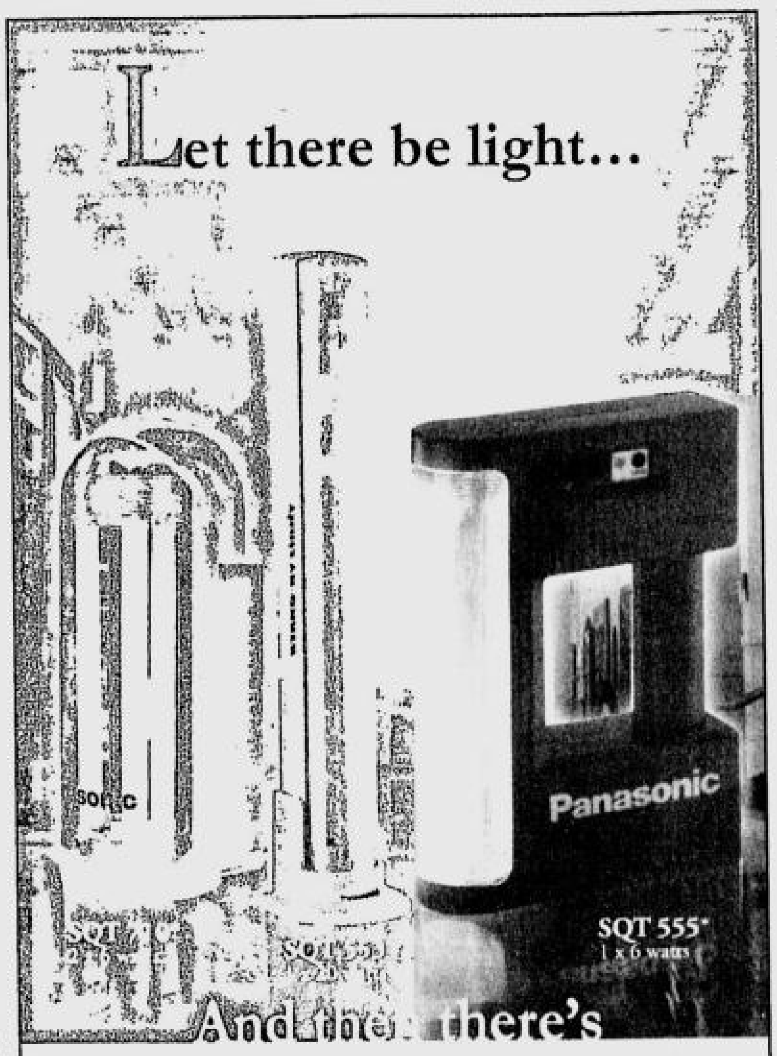
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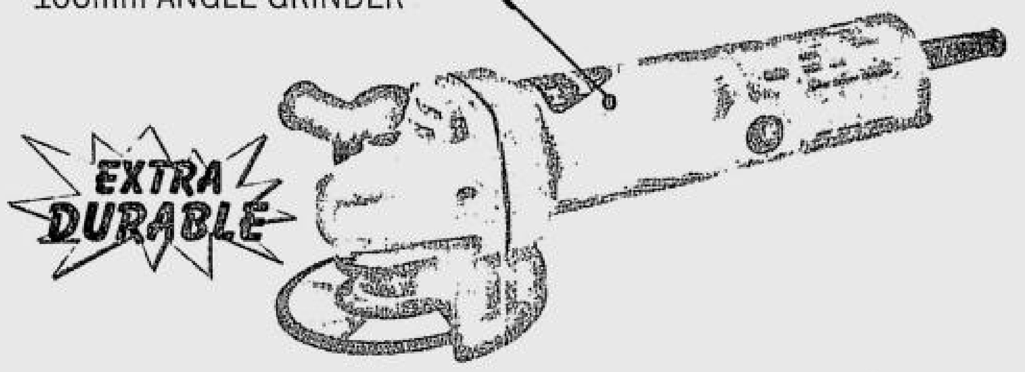
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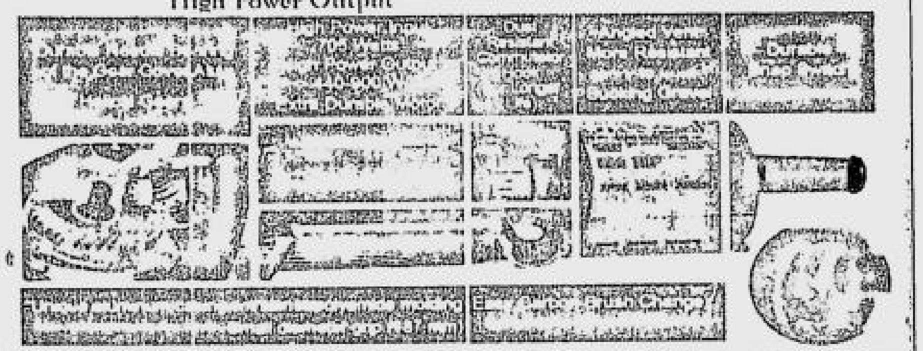

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'Poll recount should also be automated'

By Jerome Aning

AS CONGRESS GEARS UP TO pass a bill on the computerization of the election system, the Commission on Elections proposed on Monday that the recount process also be automated to speed up the resolution of election protests.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said automated recounts would mean the resolution of election protests in less than a week, thus easing political instability in contested areas.

Borra suggested that the pilot testing of the partial computerization of the elections in selected areas in the country next year, also include automated recounts.

About 636, or only about 1.27 percent of the total number of candidates who participated in local and national elections since 2002 filed election protests, but the number was "taxing" to resolve, especially when national level positions were contested, said Borra.

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Moonlighting AFP pilots in hot water

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE IS going after moonlighting pilots with the arrest of a senior captain and an apprehension alert issued for another.

Capt. Robert Solis was arrested on Monday, while Capt. Hilario Pine is being hunted, Air Force spokesperson Maj. Augusto de la Peña said yesterday.

Solis is being held at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City in the same compound as 12 PAF junior officers belonging to the Magdalo group of rebel soldiers.

De la Peña said Solis was arrested after he failed to attend his arraignment on Friday in an AWOL [absent without official leave] case.

A source close to Solis said his first two arraignments were postponed and he was not informed of the third one on Friday.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that as early as January, the Air Force had learned Solis and Pine had undergone academic and flight-simulator training with an airline while still connected with the military.

Solis graduated from the PAF Flying School in 1997 while Pine graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1995. Both were combat helicopter pilots assigned to the 207th Tactical Helicopter Squadron.

In an interview with the INQUIRER prior to his arrest, Solis, 33, said he decided to resign from the Air Force for economic reasons.

PAF captains receive less than P30,000 a month while a second officer in a commercial airline gets more than P80,000.

Solis said the Air Force sat on his resignation application.

"I already finished my contract and my resignation papers had been properly endorsed, complete with a clearance from the provost marshal," he said.

He said the clearance was later revoked without explanation and his resignation letter was returned to him "without action" pending the results of the PAF investigation into his employment outside the service.

His pay and allowances were also placed on hold, he said.

"I refused to report because they held my pay without due process," Solis said.

He was then placed on AWOL and dropped from the rolls.

Solis said he was told he wouldn't be able to get a new clearance until he fixed his AWOL status.

"But when I went back to my wing commander to rectify my status, I was told I couldn't do that anymore because I had already been dropped from the rolls. I had no more options left," he said.

De la Peña denied the Air Force was singling out the two pilots, saying the delay in the processing of their resignation papers might have been due to incomplete requirements.

'Super' wages for 'supermaids'

By Jerome Aning

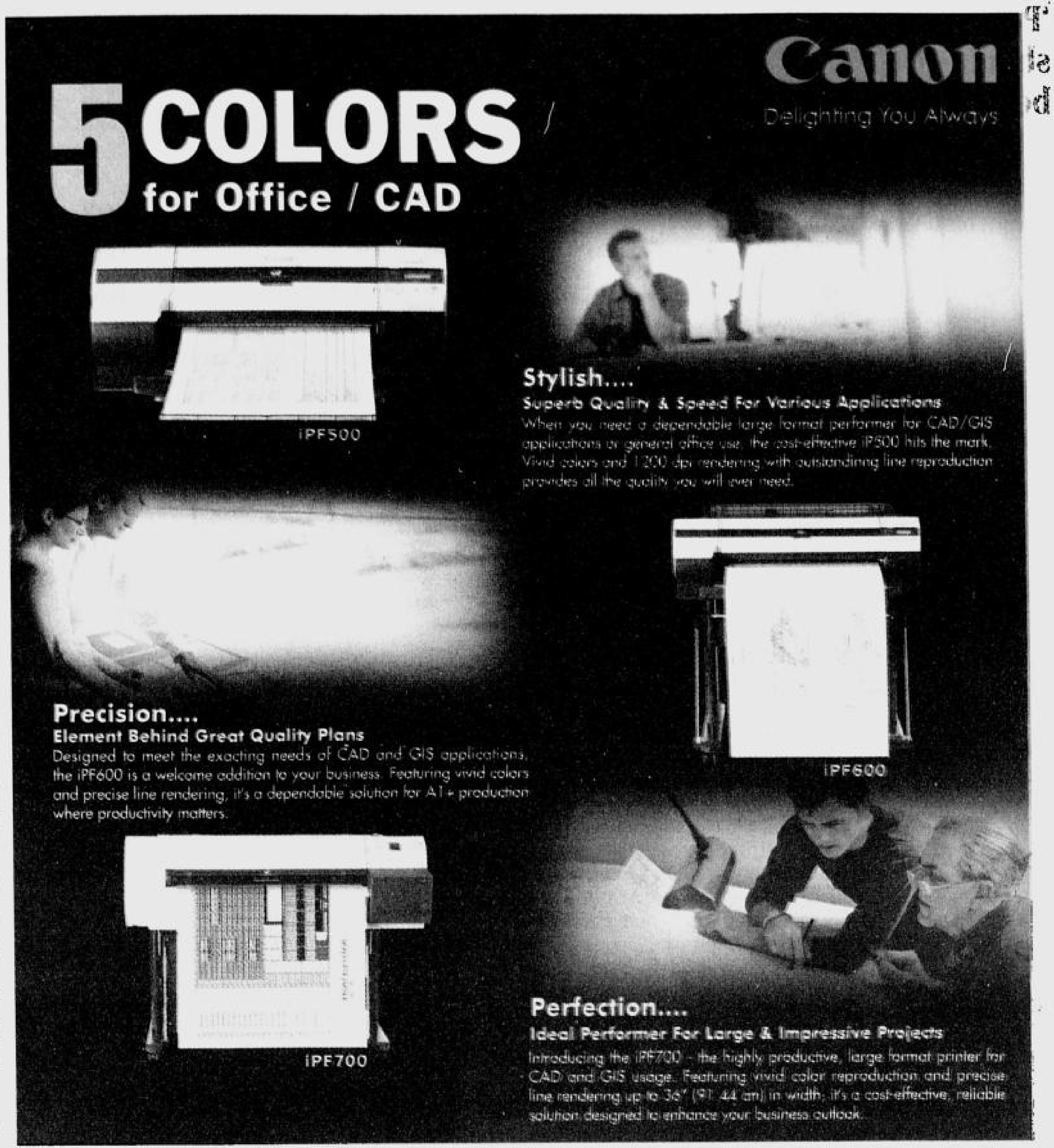
THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERmined to raise the basic wage of Filipino domestic helpers to $400 (P20,000), despite opposition from many recruiters and foreign employers.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said the number of illegally deployed domestics could rise if recruiters and foreign employers defy the soon-to-be approved POEA board resolution, raising the pay of domestics and scrapping the collection of placement fees.

"Let us not race with other domestic-deploying countries for positions that give salaries of only $100 to $150 because the helpers we'll be sending from now on are better and deserve higher pay," she added.

Under the government's "Supermaid" program, returning and prospective domestics will be given skills upgrades, emergency management courses and culture orientation. They will also have the option of learning the language of the country where they want to go.

"We expect illegal recruitment incidents because of the stricter recruitment process, higher pay and the 'no-placement fee' policy. But the market will correct itself in a short while," POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said.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OPINION

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Positive doubt

EDITORIAL

EVEN BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANGANIBAN was forced to respond to questions raised by Speaker Jose de Venecia's effort to glad-hand the Supreme Court, a survey question was propounded to a sampling of the public. The question asked by the Social Weather Stations was this: "Recently the Sigaw ng Bayan and ULAP raised their petition to the Supreme Court. Do you have much trust, are unsure, or have little trust that the Supreme Court would make a fair decision as to whether or not to grant the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and ULAP regarding people's initiative?"

The survey was conducted from Sept. 24 to Oct. 2. The results said 69 percent of the people surveyed in Metro Manila, 61 percent in the rest of Luzon, 58 percent in the Visayas and 64 percent in Mindanao were unsure that the Court would come up with a fair decision. Such uncertainty cuts across socio-economic lines. The Chief Justice made his admission that pressure was being exerted on the Court on Oct. 18, so his statement couldn't have influenced public opinion.

So what did? Not widespread education on the issues involved, if the survey's findings are any guide. Two out of five, or 41 percent of Filipinos, according to the survey, "follow the news on the citizen's initiative or signature campaign in favor of certain amendments in the Constitution" but in that group, those who follow the news "very closely" are a small 14 percent, while those that follow it "somewhat closely" make up 27 percent. About half the population, or 48 percent, pays "little attention," with a surprisingly significant 11 percent nationwide having heard of the news only from the survey takers.

It seems reasonable to conclude that what the survey results indicate is not an opinion based on a close reading of events, and thus, familiarity with the various groups arrayed for or against the people's initiative. Instead, they simply reveal the preexisting perceptions of the public. Earlier this year, a survey commissioned by a senator (and whose results were not released to the public) measured public trust in the Supreme Court and placed it at 33 percent, which roughly corresponds with public opinion as measured by the SWS in its latest survey. Considering that most citizens do not have dealings with the Supreme Court, their regard (or lack of it) can only be based on their attitudes toward the lower courts in particular and the justice system in general.

There is no need for public opinion surveys to reveal just what the public feels when it comes to our justice system. Everyone knows it leaves much to be desired, and that the delivery of justice is a perennial shortcoming of our society.

Of course, the survey question itself could have influenced how people answered the pollsters. Immediately, the question asked focused on two groups, Sigaw ng Bayan and ULAP, which are clearly identified with the administration. But then again, since two-fifths of the population claimed to be following developments to some extent, a significant portion of the population would have seen what there is for all the world to see: President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies in Sigaw ng Bayan and the local governments are the ones in a position to do arm-twisting in terms of the Supreme Court.

And yet even if the phrasing of the question and the blitz of government-oriented propaganda might have put a spotlight on Palace pressure on the Court, the overall finding of the survey isn't overwhelmingly antagonistic either to the government or the Court. What is overwhelming is doubt. The public simply is uncertain. And the reason for that lies in the behavior of the Court itself.

Not since the 1970s has the Supreme Court had to wrestle with so many cases involving civil and political liberties. While some might question the time it took to resolve the cases, what's clear is that in no instance has the Supreme Court obviously failed in its duties. Its decisions on controversial executive actions have been, on the whole, unfavorable to the Palace. Time and again, it has answered in the affirmative for those who've challenged the executive. In the end, the Supreme Court enjoys what few institutions continue to possess: the benefit of the doubt in terms of public opinion.

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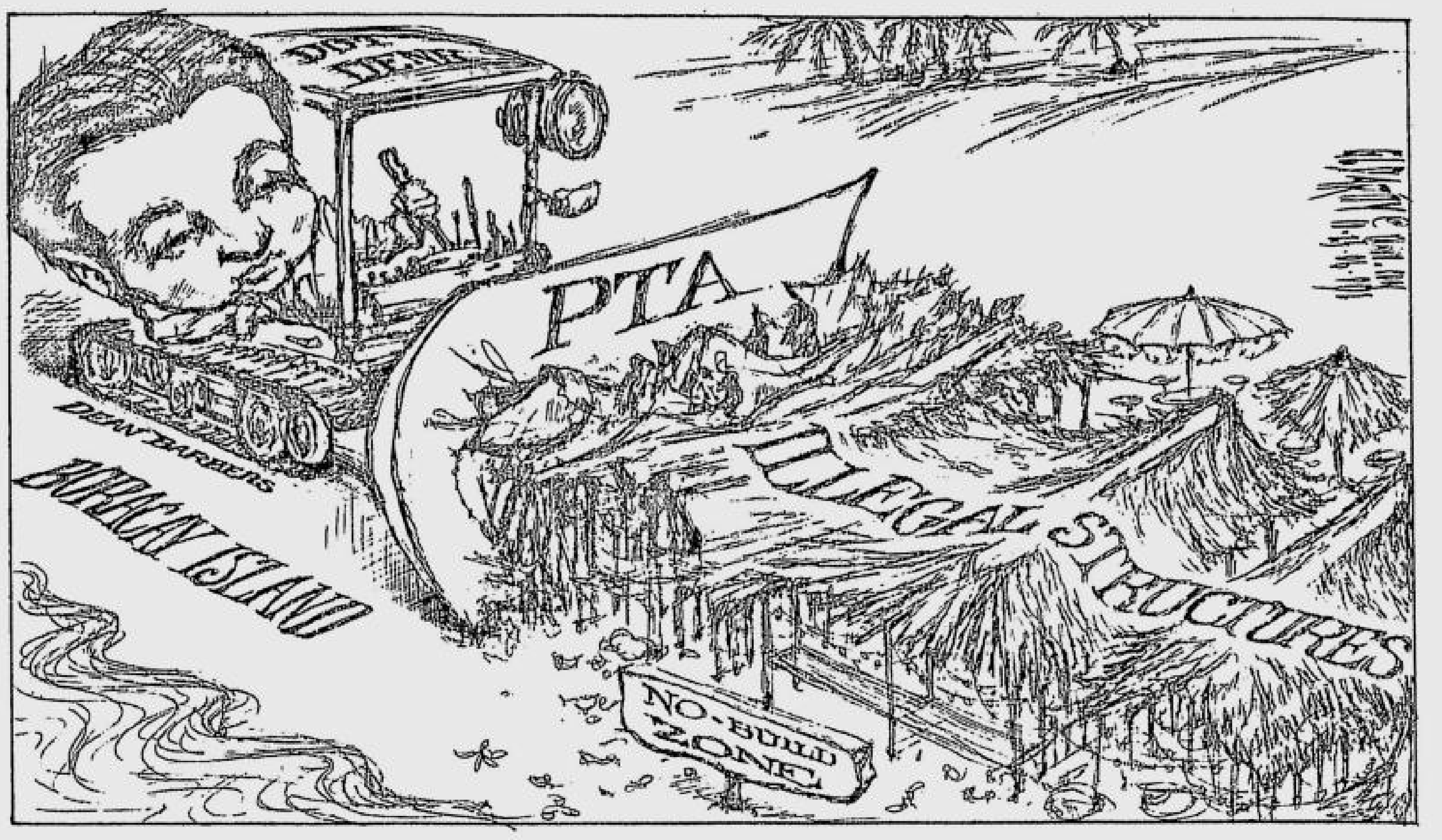

RP needs strict gun control laws

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AND HIS OFFICIALS are worried sick about foreign terrorists decimating the US population through such plots as the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center twin towers, a nuclear missile attack from North Korea, and others still being hatched in the minds of Osama bin Laden-types. But the people doing the most decimation of the American population are Americans themselves—the psychos, wackos and weirdos that infest American society. In less than two weeks this year (from Sept. 26 to Oct. 9), four school shootings left dozens of students dead or wounded.

Why is it so easy for wacko Americans to kill fellow Americans? Because of the proliferation of guns. Anybody can go to a gun store and buy guns, from handguns to assault rifles. Responsible officials have tried to stop the mayhem many times by instituting gun control laws, but gun manufacturers and the National Rifle and Pistol Association successfully lobbied against gun control each time. "The right to bear arms" is guaranteed by the Constitution, they argue.

And with a reason. The founding fathers put that guarantee there because America was won through the use of guns—from the days of the pioneers, through the War for Independence, the Civil War down to the taming of the West and the Indian wars.

But now the United States is the richest and most modern nation in the world, yet many of its modern cities look as if they were still in the Wild Wild West. A report by Reuters the other day said that more than 30,000 Americans die from gunshot wounds every year—an average of 82 each day—through murder, suicide and accidents. That's more than the death rate during the days of the gunfighters in the Wild West or of Al Capone and other mobsters.

Because of the recent school shootings, the White House hastily called a Conference on School Safety. But paradoxically, the word "gun" was not mentioned during the whole conference, the story said. It was a teenager who pointed out that it was easy access to high-powered guns that was causing so many deaths. And such was the fear of pro-gun lobbyists of even the top American leaders that although President Bush and wife Laura Bush attended the conference, both avoided mentioning guns.

"How is it even possible to have a discussion about preventing school shootings without talking about guns?" asked a spokesman of Violence Policy Center.

Why am I writing about guns in the hands of Americans? That's none of my business, but I'm writing about it just the same because we are slowly drifting into the same dangerous situation. The number of guns, legal and illegal, in the hands of Filipino wackos, is increasing dramatically, despite the tireless efforts of Nandy Pacheco and his (now tiring) Gunless Society. As a result, more and more Filipinos—not only journalists and militants, but also ordinary motorists just wanting to go somewhere—go to the Great Beyond prematurely because a trigger-happy wacko happened to be nearby.

Many of these lethal weapons come from American gun manufacturers, a whole slew of which churn out their weapons from the states of the US eastern seaboard, especially Connecticut, which is ironically home to that famous fount of learning, Yale University. They come to the Philippines either legally, through our own gun stores, or illegally, through smuggling, from our own military and police, and from the Christian and Muslim rebels.

Possession of a gun sometimes does strange things to some Filipinos. They become cocky, aggressive, brave, abusive and irresponsible and begin to think that, like God, they have the power of life and death over others. Only later, when they are already in prison, do they realize the folly of their ways. How many once-upright citizens are now languishing behind bars and regretting that they even came close to a gun and how one irresponsible moment during a quarrel for a parking space in a cemetery, or a traffic altercation, or a misplaced stare in a nightclub, destroyed their whole future? If they could live life all over again, I am sure they won't ever look at a gun again.

But many more lust to have that feeling of power by possessing guns. And the situation has come to a point that it is now dangerous to drive along the highways and overtake other vehicles. More and more wackos with guns now drive and if you are unlucky enough to overtake one such driver, he could send you to kingdom come with a bullet in the head.

Recently, Casiano Navarro of the Office of the Press Secretary, met such a driver on the Cavite Coastal Road. Navarro related in his complaint to Deputy Director General Reynaldo Varilla of the NCR Police Office, that as he was driving on the Coastal Road on the morning of Oct. 6. 2006, he overtook several vehicles, including an off-white Ford Everest with plate number ZBP-941. As they were nearing the teller's booth, the driver of the Everest pulled a gun on him "after an exchange of invectives."

"He pointed the gun at me but did not fire," Navarro said. "Then, the unidentified lady who was seated beside him grappled with him for the gun. Then they drove off."

He was able to trace the ownership of the Everest but not the identity of the driver although he observed that the "big fellow" had a prominent tattoo below his left shoulder (he was wearing a sleeveless undershirt). "His haircut gave me the impression that he may be a cop or a military man," he reported.

It should not be difficult to find the gun-toter and file charges against him.

Insults

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I CAUGHT SNATCHES OF "PHILIPPINE IDOL" on ABC 5 last weekend, and I was astonished far less by the performances, though some of them were quite impressive (this country is truly a bottomless well for musical talent), but by the comments of the judges. The feedback that they had been too charitable in the past seemed to have bit, and they decided to turn in a new leaf—of the more poisonous sort. To a man, and woman (Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales, Wency Cornejo), they looked determined to act the new part.

Cayabyab more than the others. His comments were rich, or wickedly delicious. He told one contestant (or words to this effect—I'm quoting from memory): "Your voice has never been your greatest asset. You've always paled in comparison to the others. Over the past weeks, you've only proven that more and more: You've gone from bad to worse. Your journey with 'Philippine Idol' should have ended much earlier."

It wasn't quite Simon Cowell in venomous relish, but it caught a bit of the spirit. Since then, I've heard the same tack in other musical programs with a similar format, judges or (musical school) headmasters trying to put contestants away, or down, with acerbic wit. Sometimes it comes off with aplomb. Most of the time, it sounds just a little cruel.

A word of advice to those planning to embark on the enterprise: It takes wit to carry off something like that. Without the wit, which is what makes it palatable despite the toxicity, all it leaves is a bad taste in the mouth. Cowell does have wit. Savageness alone doesn't quite hack it, or all it does is hack savagely. Savage wit is what does the trick. Insult is an art, which rises to magnificence with people like Oscar Wilde. It doesn't quite do to say that America hasn't entirely transcended its wilderness stage. Much better Wilde's "America is the only country that went from barbarism to decencies without civilization in between."

I do know another Simon who far surpasses Cowell in venom but who is a joy to listen to, or read. He was theater and movie critic John Simon who turned insult to a darkly lofty craft. A sample of his wit or cruelty: "(Barbra Streisand) a horse face centering on a nose that looks like Brancusi's Rooster cast in liverwurst." "Miss (Judy) Garland's figure resembles the giant-economy size tube of toothpaste in girls' bathrooms. Squeezed intemperately at all points, it acquires a shape that defies definition by the most resourceful solid geometrician." "Roger Daltrey (in 'Lisztomania') performed with a face as long as a mule and a talent considerably shorter."

The humor, of course, comes at somebody's expense, but what the hell, it's bloody hilarious.

Indeed, where the putdown is done verbally, it takes flair to carry it off. Cayabyab doesn't do badly in that department. I must confess I was taken aback by what he said about the contestant (I didn't expect something like that from a local show), but I must confess as well that I found myself exulting after my initial surprise. No point in filing up people with false hopes, particularly aspiring singers or musicians in a country crawling with talent. Who knows? Maybe it's good to challenge them that way because they can always prove the judgment wrong. If I recall right, Albert Einstein's teacher said he'd never get very far in the sciences because he wasn't very good at math. Boy, did he show him some numbers (and letters)—$e=mc^2$—that spun this planet off its axis. You never know if a contestant might be moved enough in this way to move heaven and earth to prove he or she has a claim, if not a birthright, to stardom.

But to go back to what I was saying, Cayabyab didn't come across as crabby at all. He's the type who can say, "Don't give up your day job," without sounding offensive. The one who used to have flair, too, or even savoir faire, and could hold his own with the best of them was Edu Manzano. I really think he should go back and devote his energies to fighting boredom rather than fighting "pirates," but that's another story. In his case though, particularly as host of "The Weakest Link," the putdown was a ritual of sorts. All the guests knew they were up for some barb about their apparent ignorance and were up to it. But Manzano still did it breezily, turning his peculiar way of saying "Goodbye," done with outsized, self-mocking, curtness, into quite literally a household word.

The local term is "*taray*," but it doesn't quite capture the soul of it. I've seen and heard a lot of *taray* in reel and real life, and I can't say I find any redeeming virtue in much of it. It is neither witty nor wise. Nor is it kind to the ears, the *taray* invariably being delivered with a shrillness defying forbearance. It just makes you want to believe that God periodically sends boils, plagues and people like that your way to remind you, like Job, that life is pain.

The wittily crafted putdown, or death sentence—which is how it comes across from judges of contests in particular, who are not unlike judges of Death Row cases—is not like that at all. It leaves the audience at least, if not the subject of the barb, in a state of pleasurable amusement. A guilty pleasure no doubt, and a most un-Christian one, but a pleasure nonetheless. It takes talent to do that.

Some have it, some don't. Richard Nixon always wondered why when Harry S. Truman cursed, it sounded homespun, like it came from the village wag, while when he cursed it sounded obscene, like it came from a dockside thug. Quite simply, as people pointed out to him, he didn't know how to curse.

Ditto here. Some people know how to insult, some others just don't.

* * *

Don't forget, tonight the Stop the Killings bar tour moves on to Makati. Saguijo Bar @ 7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Village, with Parokya ni Edgar, Paramita, Giniling Fest, Salindiwa, and Spy, at 9:30.

North Korea makes history

WORLD VIEW

Richard N. Haass

HISTORICAL TURNING POINTS ARE NORMALLY easier to identify in retrospect. But it will not require years to determine whether North Korea's test of a nuclear explosive device qualifies as one. It does. The question is whether it proves to be a turn for the better or for the worse.

Some argue that little has changed as a result of the test. The world assumed for years that North Korea possesses enough nuclear material to make a half-dozen or more basic nuclear bombs. The test made explicit what was implicit.

But what was assumed is now known. So much has changed. North Korea has challenged the world; the question is how the world responds.

The stakes could hardly be higher. North Korea's leaders have a history of aggressiveness, a demonstrated contempt for their people, and a record of selling just about anything (from drugs and counterfeit dollars to missile parts) to earn hard currency. The danger is that they might be tempted to use a nuclear weapon, act irresponsibly in the belief that such weapons shield them, or sell one to terrorists.

A second danger concerns the regional consequences of North Korea's test. Northeast Asia is a dynamic arena, home to many of the world's powers, including China, Russia, Japan, the two Koreas and in many ways the United States. This dynamism could lead to instability, owing to multiple sources of mistrust and the lack of strong regional institutions to help manage rivalries.

Global consequences exist as well. North Korea is now the ninth state with nuclear weapons, joining the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Israel, India and Pakistan. The danger is that we may fast be approaching a tipping point. How the world responds to North Korea is likely to affect the calculations of other would-be nuclear powers, including Iran. Maintaining peace in a world in which literally dozens of fingers are on nuclear triggers will be far more difficult—and the consequences of failure far more destructive.

Initial reactions to North Korea's nuclear test were uniformly critical, culminating (thus far) in UN Security Council Resolution 1718, which condemns the test, demands that North Korea resume full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and imposes a range of military, political and economic sanctions.

Nevertheless, North Korea's leaders are clearly betting that they can get away with what they have done, and that the world will get used to their nuclear weapons program, much as it did with Israel, India and Pakistan.

They may be right. Both South Korea and China are reluctant to support robust sanctions. South Korea's "Sunshine Policy" is best understood as "unconditional engagement." Not surprisingly, this "all carrot, no stick" approach has failed to affect North Korean behavior.

China, for its part, has made clear that it does not intend to inspect cargo moving in and out of North Korea across their long common border to ensure it does not contain items prohibited by Resolution 1718. While China opposes North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons, it is even more opposed to policies that could threaten the North's stability and lead to massive refugee crossings into China or to a unified Korea with its capital in Seoul.

So the challenge remains to devise a response that will gain widespread international backing and influence North Korean behavior and capabilities. One option is a "preventive" military strike. The problem is that it would almost surely trigger a massive, costly war and it would not necessarily succeed in destroying all of North Korea's hidden capabilities. Moreover, both China and South Korea strongly oppose such a scenario, while the United States is poorly positioned to implement it, given its involvement in Iraq.

A second option is living with a nuclear North Korea. The danger is less that North Korea might use nuclear weapons (although it might) than that it might sell them. President Bush's warning that "the transfer of nuclear weapons or material by North Korea to states or non-state entities would be considered a grave threat to the United States, and we would hold North Korea fully accountable of the consequences of such action," is meant to deter this outcome. The problem, of course, is that deterrence sometimes fails.

The third option is diplomacy. North Korea would be expected to give up its nuclear weapons and place its nuclear material under international safeguards in exchange for formal security assurances, energy resources and a range of political and economic benefits. Such efforts should be renewed as soon as possible; the United States should agree to bilateral as well as six-party talks with the North, possibly in exchange for a moratorium on nuclear tests.

It will take a blend of the three options—the threat of military force, the reality of economic sanctions, and the resumption of diplomacy—to deal with North Korea's challenge. This will not be easy, but it is worth pursuing, because the alternative—a desperate, hostile, nuclear-armed and isolated North Korea—should alarm everyone.

Project Syndicate

Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "The Opportunity: America's Moment to Alter History's Course."

Freaking out

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE RECENT CONTROVERSY RAISED IN BRITAIN and elsewhere about Muslim women wearing the "veil" reminds me of a joke on "Saturday Night Live." The SNL "newscast" had a report on Ash Wednesday and how Catholics in the United States were walking around with black crosses on their foreheads. The ritual, said "newscaster" Amy Poller, was meant not just to remind Catholics about their mortality but also "to freak out their friends and officemates."

Sometimes, I wonder if women wearing the "nikab," a veil covering the face except for the eyes, or even the burqa, a garment that covers the wearer from head to toe—in places where they're not really required—just want to "freak out" others.

I consider myself a reasonably tolerant person, and maybe even carry around illusions about my capacity for accepting diversity, but I must confess to being "freaked out" when I encountered a woman in burqa recently. It was at a conference for media people and one of the participants, a Muslim woman journalist who herself walked around in a hijab or headscarf, introduced me to a colleague of hers who, as a political statement, had chosen to don the burqa.

I didn't know if the woman I met was young or middle-aged because she was wearing a long, black garment that covered her head, her torso, her arms and legs and a veil that revealed only her eyes. I could spot her hennaed hands peeking from under her long sleeves, but that was all.

I admit I was taken aback, and unwelcome feelings of—fear, alarm, pity and curiosity—washed through me. I don't even know where these came from. Certainly, decades of inculturation, of fearing the "Moros" among us, had something to do with it, as well as feminist rhetoric, fueled by Western media interpretation, that the veil and the head-to-foot covering were forms of oppression and repression of women. And OK, there was plenty of ignorance at work there, too.

* * *

THEN again, weren't my own uneasy feelings just as valid as the journalist's motives for donning the concealing vestments?

This seems to be the heart of the debate now raging in Europe after former British foreign secretary Jack Straw described the "nikab" as "an unwelcome barrier to integration." The heated discussion this statement provoked was only stoked by the chorus of support aired by Prime Minister Tony Blair, writer Salman Rushdie and even Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

This isn't the first time Muslim women's garb of choice has provoked controversy in Europe where governments and societies have prided themselves for their religious tolerance and acceptance of diversity, given their huge migrant populations. At the same time, though, there is in Europe a strong political tradition of secularism, since most governments were born of popular struggles against monarchs and dominant religions. Thus, any sign or overt manifestation of religion or religious sentiment in a public space or occasion is frowned upon.

There's a thin, fragile line between these two principles then: the principle of religious respect and tolerance, and the principle of secularism. When does the practice of one's religion cross the line and begin to offend others? And when does the State's right to create a "public space" free from religion begin to interfere with the religious freedom of individuals?

* * *

YVONNE Ridley is a British journalist who converted to Islam after having been detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan when she sneaked into the country (wearing a burqa) shortly after 9/11.

Her detention, she writes, impelled her to study the Koran and what she read about Islam's teachings, especially about women, convinced her that this was the right religion for her.

It's from this unique perspective that Ridley weighed in on the "to veil or not to veil" issue in a commentary published in the Washington Post. "Having been on both sides of the veil," she writes, "I can tell you that most Western male politicians and journalists who lament the oppression of women in the Islamic world have no idea what they are talking about. They go on about veils, child brides, female circumcision, honor killings and forced marriages, and they wrongly blame Islam for all this—their arrogance surpassed only by their ignorance."

Ridley writes of "instantly becoming a second-class citizen" the moment she decided to wear a headscarf. "I knew I'd hear from the old Islamophobe, but I didn't expect so much open hostility from strangers," including hostile cab drivers, she writes.

"Yes, it is a religious obligation for Muslim women to dress modestly, but the majority of Muslim women I know like wearing the hijab, which leaves the face uncovered, though a few prefer the nikab," adds Ridley. "It is a personal statement: My dress tells you that I am a Muslim and that I expect to be treated respectfully, much as a Wall Street banker would say that a business suit defines him as an executive to be taken seriously. And, especially among converts to the faith like me, the attention of men who confront women with inappropriate, leering behavior is not tolerable."

* * *

THOUGH I myself would not want to walk around veiled (I can still remember the day I happily threw away the lace veils once required for Sunday Mass), I can certainly understand why some women consider such confining garments "liberating." There is a certain freedom, after all, in not being constantly judged and assessed by your physical assets, or by your youth (or age).

But what of women who do want to be so judged? And what of women who live under Muslim law and are punished for the slightest infraction, even the "crime" of laughing out loud?

We'll talk about life for the unwillingly veiled and shrouded in a land where it is the law in the next column.

Timicheg

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TEXTBOOK HISTORY TELLS US THAT JOSE Rizal was a great traveler. In our day and age, all the trips he made would amount to a lot of mileage, translating into free trips and other benefits. While Rizal was not able to log air miles, the country he died for now reaps diplomatic mileage and goodwill from all his journeys to foreign lands. The current Czech ambassador in Manila has memorized the entire "Ultimo Adios" and can recite it as effortlessly as someone singing a favorite song with a karaoke machine. Can the Philippine ambassadors to Spain or the Czech republic match that? The ambassador of Sri Lanka in Manila says we can visit the hotel where Rizal stayed in Colombo. The ambassador can boast likewise about the Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco. We cannot reciprocate, because national heroes of other countries have not visited Manila.

Do you know that an exact replica of the Rizal monument in Luneta now stands proudly in downtown Madrid, off Avenida de Filipinas, and that another stands on a rice field outside downtown Xiamen in China? There is a Rizal monument in Mexico, another in Chicago, yet another in a small town called Wilhelmsfeld on the outskirts of the famous university town of Heidelberg. There is a Place Rizal in Paris, Rizal streets in various cities around the world and memorial plaques in London, Tokyo, Vienna, Hong Kong and New York. All this reminds me of dogs marking their territory with pee and of the late historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo declaring, "*Pati yata eskinitang inihian ni* Rizal *ibig lagyan ng* [historical] marker." Frankly, if those cast bronze markers issued by the National Historical Institute did not cost so much, I would consider having one fabricated for my home that would scream, "Jose Rizal did NOT stay or visit this place."

I was pleasantly surprised that the city of Ghent in Belgium (where Rizal lived and published "El Filibusterismo") is considering naming a city street after a Filipino we have never heard of before but whose story is worth at least a *telenovela*. He is Timicheg from Bontoc.

The story begins with a letter from Adrian Elmer S. Cruz, third secretary and vice consul in our embassy in the Hague, that I received last month. He wrote:

"The city of Gent in Belgium is seeking our assistance to find out the name of an unidentified (*sic*) Filipino who died in Ghent, Belgium some time in 1913 during the World's Fair. The following is the information provided by Mr. Andre Capiteyn of the City Archives Ghent:

"During the World's Fair in Ghent 1913, one of the attractions was the so-called Filipino Village. In that village about sixty Filipinos 'Igoroten van de Haino-stam' (Igorots of the Haino tribe) were displaying their traditional activities. The whole show was organized by an impresario who traveled with his group all over Europe. One child was born during their stay in Ghent, a girl called Flandria. And one man died, at the age of 28, according to the newspaper, as a result of depression and the cold weather. At the end of the World's Fair, the manager disappeared with the profits and left the Filipinos alone and helpless. Presently, the city would want to give a street name to said Filipino. Based on the newspapers of the time his name was TIMITEG, but the death certificate reads TIMICHEG."

I have it on good authority that "Timicheg" is the way his name is pronounced. His death certificate states that he was from Bontoc, his parents were named Beda and Nomanchan, and if the data quoted above are correct, he was not from a "Haino tribe" but probably came from a place near the Aino river. Fortunately, primary-source research in the United States has been undertaken and written up by Patricia O. Afable, an anthropologist based in the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., who specializes in American Indians. Dr. Afable says that Timicheg was part of a group of 55 Filipinos from Bontoc who traveled to France in the spring of 1911. Their services were contracted by a veteran of the Filipino-American War named Richard Schneidewind who made friends with the Filipinos "displayed" in the St. Louis Exposition of 1904, where he maintained a tobacco concession.

What is interesting is that some prominent people in the Cordilleras, including the famous Episcopalian Bishop Brent, tried in vain to stop the departure of the Bontoc people because they were against the continuing display of "Igorots" in carnivals and freak shoes in the United States, after the St. Louis Expo where they were a big hit. Schneidewind took these people on tour through France, England and Belgium, but ran into financial difficulties, resulting in some of them wandering the streets of Ghent in search of food and money. Their interpreters, named Ellis Tongai and James Amok, even wrote a letter to US President Woodrow Wilson requesting for help to return home.

In December 1913, the US consul in Ghent took the Bontoc people to Marseilles, where they caught a steamer to Manila. One man allegedly jumped the caravan in Ghent and was last seen boarding a train to Brussels. Could this have been Timicheg who died of cold and depression in 1913?

The outlines of Timicheg's story are very engaging indeed and we hope someone can flesh it out before the Ghent street is named after him.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

World's best

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOME TIME BACK, I WROTE ABOUT THE RATINGS OF Asian universities given by Asiaweek magazine. Sadly, Asiaweek has closed down, so I thought we would no longer be able to compare universities in the region.

But it turns out that there are global surveys as well, one of which was just released last Oct. 5. This is the Times Higher Education Supplement-Quacquarelli Symonds (THES-QS) World University Rankings. With thousands of universities in the world, it is an honor to make it to this list, which is based on several criteria, including faculty-to-student ratios and ratings given by more than 3,000 academicians and 700 leading international employment recruiters.

How did the Philippines fare? I'm going to keep you in suspense and just say, for now, that four of our universities did make it to the top 500 universities.

Global ranks

Let's look first at the THES-QS list of 20 leading universities. Note that there are ties so there might be occasional skipping of numbers: Harvard (1st), Cambridge (2nd), Oxford (3rd), Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale (tying for 4th), Stanford (6th), California Institute of Technology (7th), University of California Berkeley (8th), Imperial College London (9th), Princeton (10th), University of Chicago (11th), Columbia (12th), Duke (13th), Beijing University (14th), Cornell (15th), Australian National University (16th), London School of Economics (17th), Ecole Normale Superieure (18th), National University of Singapore and Tokyo University (tying for 19th).

Most of the universities are American and British, but there is also representation from Australia, France, China, Singapore and Japan. Most of the leading American universities are private; in fact, on that top 20 list, the University of California Berkeley is the only American public institution. When I went on to the top 500 universities, I found that in all countries of the world, with the glaring exception of the United States and one other country (which I'll name later but which you may have guessed), state universities lead in the rankings.

Asia's best

I decided to pull out the Asian (to include Australian) universities from the THES-QS list and found that among the world's 500 leading universities, 90 are from Asia. Japan leads with 28, followed by China (including Hong Kong) with 16, Taiwan with 8, South Korea and Thailand with 7 each, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines with 4 each, Australia with 3, Singapore with 2 and Bangladesh with one.

Do be careful with those figures since it's not just a numbers game. Australia and Singapore have few universities on the list, but they are all high up in the ranking.

Enough with the suspense. Let's look at how the Philippines did. The University of the Philippines came in 299th globally and 47th among Asian universities. I have to say that's not too bad, considering how UP has had to plod along with shrinking budgets and with the flight of so many good professors. Trailing behind UP were three private universities: De La Salle (392nd), Ateneo de Manila (484th) and, talk about a photo-finish, the University of Santo Tomas at 500th.

Lessons

Instead of bombarding you with more numbers, I'm going to analyze those rankings and spell out three important implications for our own educational system.

First, you don't need to be a rich country to have good universities, India being the best example. Even before independence, Indian nationalists had formed a commission to plan out their future and early on, they sought to form a network of science and technology institutions. After independence, funds were put in to establish a whole network, with several Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campuses. IIT ranked 57th in the THES-QS global list.

Indonesia, a country less developed than the Philippines, is another example. It had three universities, all state-run, beating us in rankings: University of Indonesia (250th), Bandung Institute of Technology (258th) and University of Gadja Mada (270th).

Second, the other countries seem to recognize that excellence in education must be spread out throughout the country. Note that our four best universities are all in Metro Manila. In contrast, the Indian Institute of Technology has campuses in several states, all of which fared quite well when Asiaweek rated each unit back in 2000. The three Indonesian universities I just named are all on the island of Java, but at least they're found not just in the capital, Jakarta, but also in Bandung and Yogyakarta.

Thailand's best universities—Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Mahidol, Kasatsart, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Prince of Songkla—are all state universities and they are located in different parts of the country.

Third (and I've made this point time and time again), the state needs to invest in universities. The THES list is clear in showing that, with the exception of the United States and the Philippines, the leading universities in every country are state-owned. Sure, UP is the leader in the Philippines, but in other countries, several state universities—not just one—made it to the THES list.

Most governments in the world have the wisdom to look at education as something too important to leave to "free market forces" (read: "profit"). Unless we learn from them, we will continue to see more diploma mills, more scandals in licensure exams and more Filipinos having to work overseas as cheap labor to develop other countries. Note that the THES-QS rankings also relate to international competitiveness, meaning if you graduate from those that lead in the rankings, you also stand a better chance of getting a well-paying international job.

UP is still among the world's best, but if we worked harder on the entire educational system, we should have more reason to be proud. Ultimately, we should be able to look at these university rankings as indicators of our current development strategies, as well as predictors of the country's future.

* * *

Announcement. The department of anthropology of UP Diliman is co-sponsoring, with the city government of Pasig, a special exhibit at their city museum. UP has its own Anthropology Museum and we're lending some of our collections to Pasig, part of our effort to reach out to the public. The Pasig City Museum is at Plaza Rizal (in front of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral) and the exhibit runs until Nov. 20.

Another (last-minute) announcement: UGAT, the Anthropology Association of the Philippines, is holding its annual convention at Silliman University in Dumaguete City from Oct. 26 to 28, 2006, with the theme: "The Philippines Unbound: Anthropology Critiques of Globalization." Call Monica at 0917-533-6578 if you need more information.

Gov't needs only probable cause to indict Comelec commissioners

IN DEFENDING OMBUDSMAN Merceditas Gutierrez's decision absolving the Comelec commissioners of any liability in the Mega Pacific automation contract, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that what was before the Supreme Court was a civil case and, thus, the quantum of proof required was mere preponderance of evidence; whereas, in the Ombudsman, it was a criminal case "where (proof) beyond reasonable doubt or almost absolute certainty is the criteria .... The weight of evidence necessary is totally different in both cases." (PDI, 10/4/06)

I beg to disagree. The quantum of proof required in criminal investigations before the Ombudsman is not proof beyond reasonable doubt but only "probable cause." The criminal investigatory function of the Ombudsman is to determine whether or not probable cause exists to warrant the indictment of the respondent before the Sandiganbayan or regular courts. In fine, it conducts preliminary investigation defined in Sec. 1, Rule 112 of the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure (adopted in Sec. 3, Rule V, Rules of Procedure of the Office of the Ombudsman) as follows:

"Sec. 1. Preliminary investigation defined; when required. Preliminary investigation is an inquiry or proceeding to determine whether there is sufficient grounds to engender a well-founded belief that a crime has been committed and the respondent is probably guilty thereof, and should be held for trial."

In Webb vs De Leon (247 SCRA 652), the Supreme Court said that "a finding of probable cause needs only to rest on evidence showing more likely than not, a crime has been committed and was committed by the suspects. Probable cause need not be based on clear and convincing evidence of guilt, neither on evidence establishing guilt beyond reasonable doubt, and definitely, not on evidence establishing absolute certainty of guilt."

Clearly, therefore, proof beyond reasonable doubt, or "almost absolute certainty" as Nograles would have it, is not required for a finding of probable cause by the Ombudsman to warrant the indictment of the Comelec commissioners before the Sandiganbayan.

As a lawyer, it is my considered opinion that there is more than sufficient probable cause for an indictment against the Comelec commissioners given the earlier findings of the Supreme Court against them, the Ombudsman's own earlier findings against Borra and the dissenting opinion of some of the members of the Casimiro Panel which recommended the commissioners' absolution.

The Comelec commissioners must prove their innocence in the proper forum. This is the just and decent way to clear whatever is left of their names.

—REX G. RICO,
4/F Cattleya Condominium,
235 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

GMA eroding pillar of gov't

GEORGE WASHINGTON ONCE said, "The administration of justice is the firmest pillar of government." Recent events show the extent to which Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has eroded that pillar of government.

In the Subic rape case, the prosecution panel appointed by her justice secretary is sabotaging the cause of Nicole, a Filipino citizen, to preserve the Visiting Forces Agreement. The chair of the prosecution panel is behaving as if she is the chief defense counsel of the American rapists. The only conscientious and dedicated member of the panel, who protested this deliberate mishandling of the case, was dismissed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

There is also the decision of Ms Arroyo's Ombudsman to absolve the officials of the Commission on Elections who were involved in the Mega Pacific contract irregularity, notwithstanding the 2004 Supreme Court ruling which declared the transaction illegal and a gross violation of public bidding procedures.

And there is the murder of Rev. Alberto Ramento, the supreme bishop of Iglesia Filipina Independiente. Before a thorough investigation could be made of military and police complicity, the killing was declared a simple case of robbery with homicide. But there is strong ground to suspect that it was part of the serial killings of political activists. Bishop Ramento was known to be a stern critic of the Arroyo administration. At the time of his death, he was actively campaigning against the Arroyo-sponsored Charter change.

Laban ng Masa adds its voice to the nationwide denunciation of the mockery of justice under the regime of Ms Arroyo.

Laban ng Masa affirms its conviction that her illegitimate regime must go for justice to reign in our ravaged nation.

—DR. FRANCISCO NEMENZO JR.,
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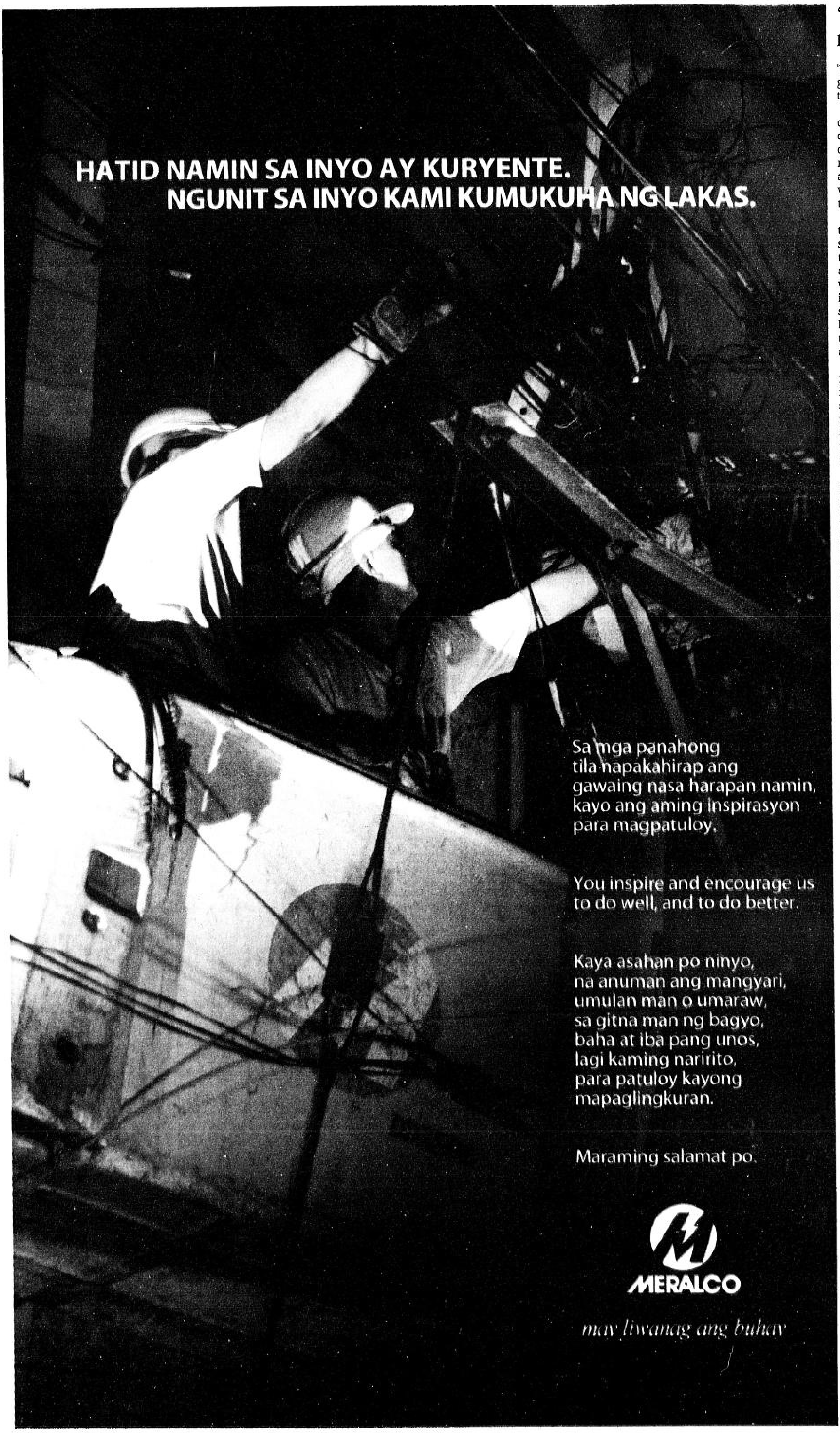

'Stop the Killings' rocked my world

"CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT," A SAYING goes. In this case, my curiosity led me to "Stop the Killings."

Being an avid reader of Conrado de Quiros' columns, his personal advocacy against the current spate of politically motivated killings of activists and ordinary citizens has caught my fancy. So one Tuesday night, my friends and I decided to check out De Quiros' open invitation to the bar tour he organized to "Stop the Killings" at My Brother's Moustache.

My experience was an eye opener. Before the actual show started, the organizers showed a video of children who were also victims of killings—the "usual collateral damage," as Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita would describe them. I must admit that seeing graphic images of children with brains spilt or in coffins is not exactly my idea of a relaxing evening, but children being killed by the very government that must protect them are not exactly a relaxing reality either.

To say the least, that Tuesday was a very moving encounter. Kudos to De Quiros for his idea of bringing relevance to an otherwise self-indulgent activity of bar-hopping. The repertoire of Chickoy Pura, Noel Cabangon and Susan Fernandez was as cool as their voices and the message they delivered to the audience.

I only hope that people lucky enough to experience this tour are disturbed enough to shell out a few bucks to benefit the actual victims. I did. Immediately after the activity, I looked for the organizations (Children's Rehabilitation Center and Salinlahi) and gave a few pesos for their orphan support (as the flier at the bar's entrance indicated), instead of spending them for another drink that could have only worsened my hangover. Although I did wonder if the entrance fee covered a percentage of contribution for the children-beneficiaries. (Not such a bad idea, no?) In such case, I would ask more of my friends to support De Quiros' bar tour.

To De Quiros, the Children's Rehabilitation Center and the other organizers of this bar tour: thank you for rocking my world. Stop the Killings!

—MEIT DE LA PAZ,
1235 Trece de Agosto St.,
Paco, Manila

Abolish statistics office

IMPORTANT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING bundles of birth certificates, were destroyed by fire in the National Statistics Office in the morning of Oct. 3. SFO2 Wilson Tana said the fire razed two divisions of the NSO Annex 2 at the Soledad Building on De Dios Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila. (PDI, 10/4/06)

I think it's now time to abolish the NSO. This government agency is duplicating the functions and services of our local civil registrars. One has to get birth records and other documents from the NSO (to support his/her application for passports and others), when in fact those documents are available locally. Besides, getting those documents from the NSO becomes a financial burden for the public which has to pay P125 for a certified true copy of a document which would cost less to secure from local government units. Are the official records issued by a local government not considered public documents?

In the INQUIRER issue of June 13, 2005, then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima even wanted a moratorium on the creation of new government agencies, stressing that the government's volatile fiscal situation called for the downsizing of the bureaucracy. Purisima was commenting on HB 1494 creating the Solar Development Research Authority which, according to him, would be duplicating the function of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau, an attached agency of the Department of Energy.

The Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management are studying the need to dissolve some of the 15 government-owned and -controlled corporations.

Aside from the state-owned firms, the government is likewise embarking on a rationalization program for the national government. The national government should not forget the NSO in its move to downsize the bureaucracy.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
Rositaville Subdivision,
Concepcion I, Marikina City

Justices have made up their minds on Cha-cha

From page A1

tice said that the ruling had been written (*"Lalabas na bukas. Nakaporma na"*), and that many of the magistrates had made up their minds on the matter, having started serious research on related laws after the petition was brought before the high court last month.

"We all have studied the issue for a long time now. *Yung iba, claro na ang* position (The others have formulated their positions)," the justice said in a phone interview.

But as to the outcome of the petition, the justice said: "You will never know the outcome until the counting of votes is over."

The justice also admonished the INQUIRER for its banner headline on Tuesday stating that 60 percent of Filipinos doubted the fairness of the Supreme Court vis a vis the petition filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

The banner story was based on a Social Weather Stations survey showing that six of 10 Filipinos were "unsure" whether the high court would decide fairly on the issue of the Malacañang-backed people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

"That news is already bordering on the *sub judice* because it affects the reputation of the justices and the institution as a whole," the justice said.

Sub judice—Latin for "before the court"—prohibits the publication of materials tending to interfere with the administration of justice by preventing the fair trial of any proceeding in a court of justice. It falls under the broader law of contempt of court.

Debate to drag on

In an interview last week, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said he expected deliberations on the petition to drag on: "We'll discuss this from Oct. 25th (Wednesday), and then Thursday, and then Friday, and then Saturday, Sunday, until we can come out with a decision."

The high court goes on recess from Oct. 30 to Nov. 10.

Up for decision is the petition to amend the Constitution through the people's initiative mode, which was thrown out in August by the Commission on Elections in light of the high court's earlier decision pointing to the absence of an enabling law.

Sigaw and Ulap had claimed compliance with the required number of signatures of at least 3 percent of the registered voters in each district nationwide, and assailed OneVoice and other opposition groups for their "collateral attack" on the more than 6.3 million voter-petitioners supposedly backing the initiative.

But OneVoice questioned the certifications of verification issued by election officers attesting to the petitioners' substantial compliance with the requirements.

During the Sept. 26 oral arguments by opposing parties before the high court, a number of justices openly attacked the initiative and voiced doubts on the integrity of the 6.3 million signatures gathered, the source of their funding and the role played by the local governments in the matter.

Can't please everyone

Malacañang appeared unperturbed by the SWS survey results.

"We cannot please everybody. We are confident that the Supreme Court will act or decide on this issue based on the law and on the best public interest," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing at the New Executive Building.

"Regardless of what the surveys say, we have a high regard for the Supreme Court. We respect [its] independence and integrity," he said.

Bunye tried to pin the blame on the opponents of Charter change for the cloud of doubt hanging over the high court.

"It's just unfortunate that in the so many innuendos and insinuations floating around, the Supreme Court has been touched by controversy. But I appeal to the sectors concerned to refrain from making innuendos as these will only weaken the perception of the highest court of the land. We believe that it is incumbent on all of us that respect for the Supreme Court is maintained," he said.

Bunye also said there was no need for Malacañang to defend the tribunal despite the fact that 11 of the 15 justices, including Panganiban, were appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We believe in the integrity and the competence of the Supreme Court. Members of the court are well equipped to answer these criticisms," he said.

He refused to comment when asked whether the apparent public distrust of the tribunal was comparable to the President's low trust ratings.

Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser on political affairs, said he believed the tribunal would "rule with only the best interest of the nation at heart."

"We don't know which way the decision will go. The implications and consequences of the decision are too serious for them to be concerned with or influenced by a survey that does not indicate anyway which ruling would be perceived as fair or otherwise by the public," he said.

'Unfair'

Some senators belittled the results of the SWS survey.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the survey findings were "unfair" to the 15 justices who had shown objectivity and independence in deciding on landmark cases in recent months.

"The skepticism over their fairness is misplaced and certainly highly speculative," Angara said in an interview.

The justices had junked the administration's gag rule, Executive Order No. 464; Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency; and the "calibrated preemptive response," which banned protest rallies without permits.

Angara, as well as Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., said they had no doubt that the justices would rule on the present case "on the basis of law," as they had done in previous, similarly controversial cases.

"On such an important and far-reaching matter, each of the justices will decide according to the law and the Constitution," Angara said, adding:

"We should give them moral support so they will come to an objective, fair and wise decision, and not prejudge them.

Said Pangilinan: "We trust that the Supreme Court will decide solely on the basis of law and jurisprudence and not on public opinion or, to borrow the term used by no less than Chief Justice Panganiban, from pressure exerted by interested parties."

Not public opinion, pressure

Pangilinan had earlier appealed to the five most senior justices, who are all automatically nominated for the post of chief justice in place of the retiring Panganiban in December, to inhibit themselves from the case.

Magsaysay, for his part, said he believed that the justices would rule on the case based on the substance of the issue, authenticity of the process and the people's "genuine participation or non-participation" in the people's initiative.

"I have no reason to doubt [their fairness] even if most of them are appointees of the President. Once they joined the Supreme Court, they have shown that they are objective, independent and introspective individuals, and free of political favors," he told the INQUIRER.

Magsaysay said public skepticism over the high court's fairness could be partly attributed to the complexity of the issue as well as the usually low-profile stance of the justices.

"The issue that the Supreme Court is faced with is so complex. And that's normal because [it] is seldom in the news or the media. The Supreme Court is in that rarefied level of society, seldom heard or seen," he said. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio*

Joker: Now or never for JdV

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ONE MAN'S AMBITION IS driving the big push for Charter change, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

According to Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia wants the shift to the parliamentary system to happen now because he wants to be installed as head of Parliament.

"JDV wants to be prime minister. It's now or never," said Arroyo, a former congressman who is leading the Senate fight against the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative.

De Venecia, an ardent advocate of Charter change, had earlier denied he was strongly pushing for the shift because of personal ambition.

But Arroyo said De Venecia wanted the shift much more than President Macapagal-Arroyo did.

"She is not really very keen on it. Her stake is less ambitious than JDV's," the senator said in a phone interview.

He said the President was only supporting Charter change in order to save herself: "Her only wish is to avoid being impeached and charged when she steps down."

The President survived two impeachment attempts centered on allegations that she stole the 2004 vote. Her critics suspect she wants to change the system of government to avoid another impeachment before her term expires in 2010.

Interim Parliament

Under the amendments proposed in the petition of Sigaw and Ulap, the President and Vice President Noli de Castro will be allowed to serve the remainder of their terms up to 2010, after which the country makes a full shift to the parliamentary system ruled by a Prime Minister.

In the meantime, an interim Parliament will be in place upon the ratification of the proposed changes. It will be composed of all incumbent senators, congressmen and members of the Cabinet.

The President and the Interim Prime Minister will share power during the transition, but the proposed transitory provision also says the incumbent President and Vice President can serve up to 2010 "unless impeached" by the Interim Parliament.

Senator Arroyo earlier said the purported pressure being brought to bear on the Supreme Court could have come only from Malacañang and the House led by De Venecia.

This after Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted that the 15-member tribunal had been getting "some pressure" from interested parties, although he said this would not affect the high court's decision.

No more room . . .

From page A1

have to forego the comforts of living in swanky Cebu hotels and, instead, share facilities in a government house there.

The possibility arose when Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez raised the matter of accommodations for Cabinet members during a National Security Council meeting, with the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) barely eight weeks away.

The NSC met to discuss government preparations for the Dec. 10-14 summit that will bring together the heads of state and government, as well as ministers and business leaders, of 10 Asean member-states and dialogue partners from at least six other countries.

"The main presentation was more on the actual program, especially the gala night preparation," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Foreign deluge

Toward the end of the meeting, Gonzalez said he raised the concern over accommodations for the Cabinet because of the expected deluge of foreign delegates to Cebu, including not only government leaders but also their staffs and security teams.

"This is not an ordinary meeting," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He said he was concerned because the hotels in Cebu and Mactan were expected to be fully booked with foreign delegates.

Gonzalez said that President Macapagal-Arroyo had suggested that "maybe" the Cabinet members could stay at the Malacañang sa Sugbu, the presidential residence located in the city proper.

Gonzalez recalled that somebody had said there might be no beds for them there but then someone else said it had living facilities.

The justice secretary said his only concern was that Malacañang sa Sugbu was far from the main summit site in Mactan, which is more than 45 minutes' drive from Cebu City.

Reporters scrambling, too

Among the hotels in Mactan are the Shangri-La, Waterfront and the Hyatt.

Gonzalez said nothing was final and the NSC might take the matter up again in the next meetings.

Even foreign-based reporters were not spared from the mad scramble for accommodations.

They are finding it hard to make hotel reservations because the rooms are being blocked off for foreign delegates.

One reporter also expressed suprise at the hotel rates which, she said, were twice or three times more than the usual.

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Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

War jitters send villagers fleeing

COTABATO CITY—PEACE ADvocates have expressed alarm over reports of an unusual movement of civilians in certain areas in Mindanao, who fear the resumption of hostilities amid the impasse in peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Afraid of another shooting war, the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) has formed a "lobby group" to convince Manila officials to resume the peace talks as soon as possible.

"Having experienced displacement for several years already, the latest of which was in 2003, we shudder at the thought of another outbreak of armed hostilities between the military and the MILF once the peace talks collapse," the MPC said in a statement.

The lobby group is expected to meet with senators, congressmen, the diplomatic community and even President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The MPC statement, signed by Fr. Bert Layson, Melanio Ulama and Prof. Octavio Denampo, said the continuation of the peace process had become imperative "as we face a looming crisis with the filing of criminal charges against MILF chair Ebrahim Murad."

Murad was included in the charge sheet for his alleged involvement in the bombings that hit Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat and Makilala town in North Cotabato on Oct. 10.

"It was an irresponsible move which could completely destroy the confidence-building measures that both the government and MILF panels had painstakingly developed over the last three years," the MPC statement said.

"We have to lobby to the Manila officials because our persistent calls for both the government and MILF peace negotiators to resolve the impasse in the talks at the negotiating table remains unheeded and that tension on the ground is already high," the MPC added.

It cited reports that farmers in Carmen town in North Cotabato were harvesting their palay earlier for fear of another outbreak in armed hostilities.

At least 9,000 families or 345,000 individuals were displaced when flash floods hit the towns of Carmen, Sto. Tomas and Braulio Dujali in Davao del Norte over the weekend, disaster officials said yesterday.

The flood came following heavy rains that affected other areas in Southern Mindanao.

As of yesterday, the towns were still submerged in water.

In Carmen, a resident, identified as Nestor Prado, 29, has been reported missing after crossing a river, according to reports reaching the regional Office of Civil Defense.

Carmelito Lupo, OCD regional chief, said a relocation plan had already been drawn up for the affected families, especially those living in the low-lying areas.

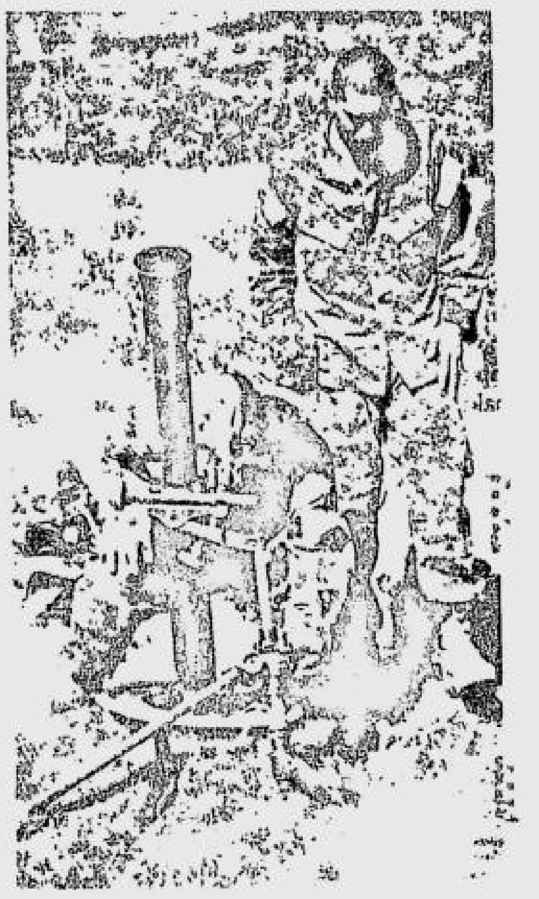
Lupo also said the OCD needed food supplies for the victims.

The flood severely damaged farm crops, infrastructure facilities and livestock, costing about P38 million, he said.

At least P33 million worth of crops and other pieces of property have been damaged in Braulio Dujali town alone.

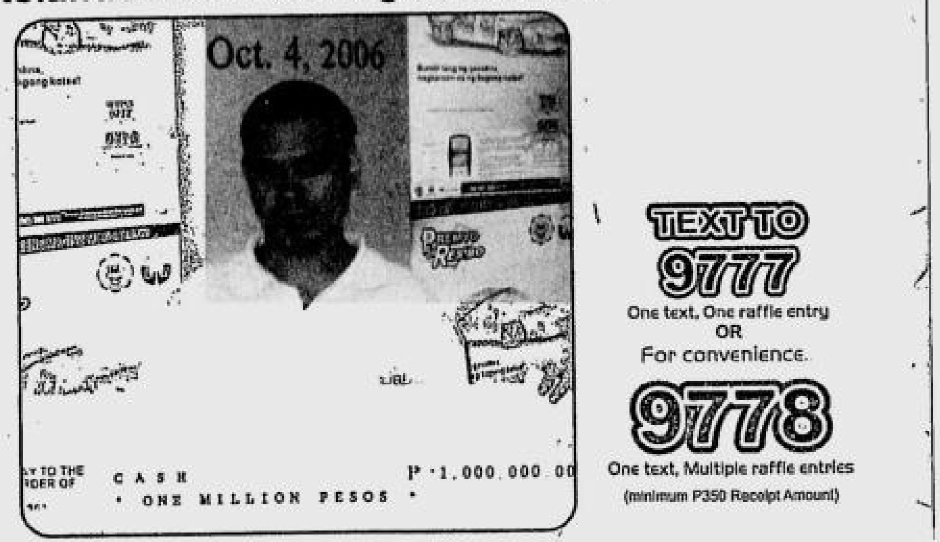
In Carmen, the floods damaged about P5.7 million worth of crops.

Lupo said the agency had yet to get data for Sto. Tomas town. *Edwin Fernandez and Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*



US MARINES take part in live fire exercises in the Crow Valley in Tarlac, Oct. 23. US forces said American soldiers would have no direct part in the war on terrorism in the Philippines or in the government's battle against communist and Muslim insurgents.

TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



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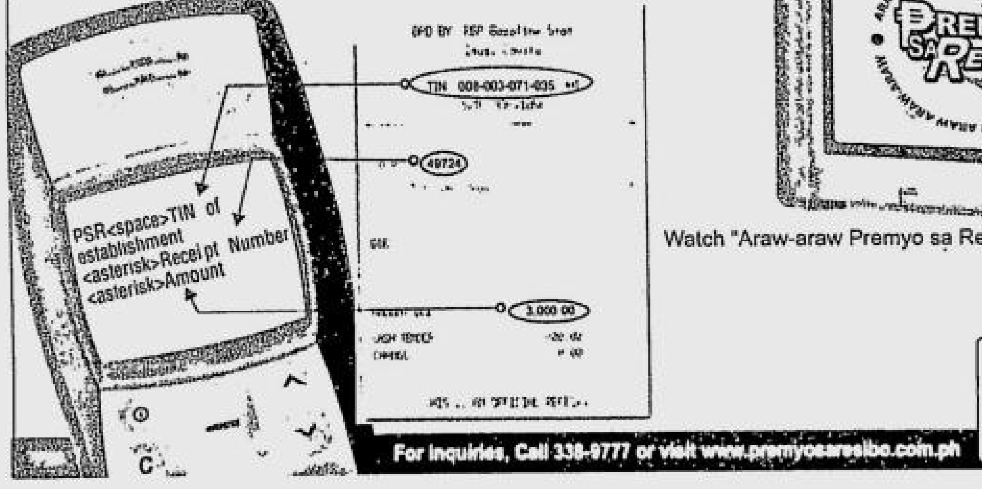
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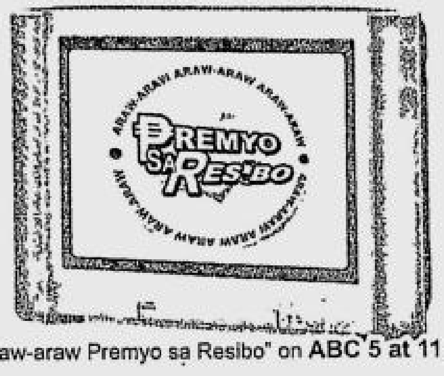

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Other new donors: Milagro Mañalac, P10,000; Roman and Susan Mañalac, P11,250; Eddie and Salud Alegre, P10,000; Joe and Kay Crimi, P5,000; Al and Esmeralda Duckett, P5,000; Poo and Joy Boonthanakit, P5,000; Lucha Alforque, P2,500; Jeff and Nanette Raheb, P1,250; Llana Lorenzo Louisa Ledemas, P1,000, Amado M. Saguinsin Memorial Foundation (Holy Gardens Memorial Park Group), P10,000 and J.H., P10,000.

Current total: P1,648.500

The S.O.S. Volunteers are thankful for the response and wishes to announce that this fund-raising effort will end on November 15.

However, the group will continue to report on this and other efforts of other volunteers helping to resuscitate the hardest-hit province by "Milenyo."

One more drop-off point for those who wish to donate food, clothing and other goods is Philamlife Barangay Hall, West Avenue, Quezon City, c/o Offie Vitiaco-Diaz (during office hours, please).

For details, call Florinda Duran-Pagsanhan, Tel. 920-1817; Ella Duran-Nolasco, 646-9980; Azucena Grajo-Uranza, 928-9844 or 313-0810 and Fr. Gerard Deveza at 0918-0998925.

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ART WORK
An artisan is busy crafting tombstones as All Souls' Day approaches and orders for his works pile up. This hole-in-the-wall on Eugenio Lopez Street in Jaro, Iloilo is one of several stalls for tombstone-making in the district.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Chavit says Saguisag did 'sloppy work' on cash advance accusation

ILOCOS SUR GOV. LUIS "CHAVIT" SINGSON said lawyer Rene Saguisag did "sloppy work" when the latter accused him of failing to liquidate millions of pesos in cash advances he made on behalf of the provincial government.

"If (Saguisag) did his homework, like any ordinary lawyer would do, then he should have realized that I have completed all the paperwork to liquidate the funds," Singson said in a statement.

Earlier, Saguisag said the Commission on Audit had recommended that Singson should not receive cash advances because he failed to fully liquidate previous advances amounting to more than P124 million.

Singson said he had no case pending at the COA regarding unliquidated cash advances.

"All cases filed against me with the Ombudsman regarding these so-called unliquidated funds have all been dismissed. So [what's] his beef?" he said.

He said the supposed COA report was "an act of desperation" on the part of Saguisag.

Saguisag is the lawyer of Singson's erstwhile friend, former President Joseph Estrada.

"They're clutching at straws. Probably, Saguisag has run out of excuses to defend his client at the Sandiganbayan that's why he has resorted to hitting back at me through the media," he said.

"If [Saguisag] really believed in the cases he cited against me, why doesn't he file charges in court?"

A COA report cited by Saguisag said Singson's unliquidated cash advances reached P180.6 million at the end of 2003. It said the Ilocos Sur government was able to trim the amount to P54.8 million by the end of 2004.

Singson was elected governor in May 2004. Deogracias Victor Savellano, the incumbent vice governor, served as Ilocos Sur governor from 2001 to 2004.

Singson, in his statement, noted that even Saguisag admitted that only P7 million had to be accounted for by the COA. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Baguio's Indian residents seek PNP protection

By Gobleth Moulic
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE INDIAN community has asked local officials to improve security measures following two murder cases and a string of extortion and robbery cases that have victimized some of its members.

The call was made after businessmen Ashwani Kumar, 39, and Amrit Singh, 52, were stabbed and killed in Kumar's apartment on Ferguson Road here on Aug. 31.

It was the first heinous crime reported in the Indian community in the last 20 years.

Police ruled out robbery as motive. Kumar's P319,000 was left untouched.

"It's personal hatred … The suspects' main target was Kumar. It was unfortunate that Singh arrived at the apartment when the suspects were stabbing Kumar," said Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, former city police chief, told the INQUIRER.

Relatives of Kumar and Singh were clueless about the motive, saying they were known in the neighborhood for being kind and friendly.

They also could not identify any suspect because they claimed that Kumar and Singh had no enemies.

Kumar and Singh, who owned a money-lending firm, were familiar faces to taxi drivers and market vendors because most of them were their clients.

"We no longer feel safe here. We all fear for our life. We don't know who our enemy is. We don't know who to trust anymore," said Gagan Deep, Kumar's cousin.

On Sept. 1, police arrested taxi driver Reginald Austria, 22, after a neighbor identified him as one of the two suspects who stabbed the Indians.

Austria was charged with double murder before the city prosecutor's office. His companions are still at large.

The Indians' woes, however, did not end.

A group of businessmen complained that two Manila-based immigration agents, whom they identified as Simeon Eleria and Armando Talatala, have been harassing them and asking them for money for several years now.

Businessman Sangiv Kumar, who charged Eleria and Talatala with extortion and robbery before the city prosecutor's office last week, said the agents had accused him of being an illegal alien and threatened to detain him if they would not give them P200,000.

Kumar said he showed the agents his immigration papers and documents that certified that he was staying in the country legally but the agents, at gunpoint, asked him to give them the money.

"Out of fear, I called up my brother to deliver P200,000 to a Baguio restaurant as Eleria and his companions demanded. They released me as soon as they got the money," he said.

Reached by phone, Eleria denied that he and Talatala had been extorting money from the city's Indian traders. "These Indians fabricate issues against their compatriots. They accused me of extortion but I don't have anything to do with it," he said.

Kumar said Eleria and Talatala returned to Baguio on Oct. 16 and claimed that they had a "mission order" to arrest him.

They took his mobile phone, handcuffed him and took him to the BI's detention center in Manila.

Eleria and Talatala, the complaint said, ordered Kumar to call his cousin to deliver P400,000 cash in exchange for his freedom.

"Why should I pay them? I did not violate any law," Kumar said.

He was released only when his fellow Indians sought the help of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Fernandez said he was aghast when he received the reports that some of his men were involved in illegal activities.

"I don't tolerate immigration employees extorting money from foreigners. If they are properly documented aliens, the commission is mandated to protect them," he told the INQUIRER.

Fernandez, who went to Baguio on Monday to verify the complaint, urged the Indian businessmen to pursue their case to "stop this cycle of corruption."

Fernandez said he did not sign any mission order for the arrest of Kumar.

Plan to tap village execs in war on NPAs denounced

LUCENA CITY—THE ASSOCIATION of village chairs in Quezon province has slammed the proposed involvement of local guards in the war on communist insurgency.

"Even if the barangay *tanods* (village watchmen) will be provided with firearms by the government, they will still not join the war against the NPA (New People's Army) because they are not prepared for it," Board Member Noli Tan, president of the barangay league, said in an interview here at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

He noted that the village police force has been trained and prepared only to maintain peace and order within the community.

"They are only oriented on how to pacify troublemakers, drunkards, petty quarrels in the village but not in waging war against heavily armed communist guerrillas," he explained.

Tan argued that if members of the village police force have been told beforehand that they will be tapped to fight the NPA, "I'm sure, most of them will not care to join and offer themselves to help maintain peace and order in the community."

"They know that they will be facing tremendous risk not only for themselves but also to their family," Tan said.

Tan said the military should just step up the recruitment campaign for volunteer members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographic Unit (Cafgu). *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES (IBP) REITERATING ITS STAND IN FAVOR OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AS A PREFERRED MODE OF AMENDING THE 1987 CONSTITUTION

Whereas, there is at present persistent moves to amend the 1987 Philippine Constitution alleging urgent need to do so in order to keep abreast with the exigencies of the times and taking into account the future of the nation;

Whereas, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) fully agrees with the well–studied observation that our fundamental law has some perceptible flaws and defects that it should now be restructured and retooled for our country to move forward in progress and prosperity;

Whereas, the undeniable clamor for charter change has fathered several propositions on the mode and manner through which needed changes are to be effected.;

Whereas, it is the strong conviction of the IBP that if there is any opportune time in our history as a nation to craft the urgent restructuring of our fundamental law, now is the most ideal when it is less turbulent and where freedom still seemingly reigns supreme;

Whereas, it is the sense of the IBP Board of Governors that the modes of changing the constitution should not be used as a vehicle for subverting the very purpose of constitutional change and of Constitutional Government by a few and more ominously infringe or even deprive the people of the freedoms they cherish and hold sacred;

Whereas, the IBP likewise firmly believes that however the noble and timely the objective of retooling the Constitution, drastic changes should be not be conceived in haste but should rather be dispassionately discussed and shaped in deliberative bodies where sobriety reigns and crafted by practical men of known probity and acknowledged integrity;

Whereas; the two (2) previous IBP Board of Governors of the terms 2001 – 2003 and 2003 – 2005, respectively, have both passed resolutions expressing the view that although they favor charter change the same should be done through a Constitutional Convention composed of Delegates directly elected by the people;

Now therefore, for and in consideration of the foregoing disquisitions and hoping with the highest aspirations that whatever changes there are in the Constitution the same should never again infringe, diminish or much less take away freedom that our great forebears strongly fought for, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved:

That the present Board of Governors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines reiterate the position of the IBP that it is in favor of charter change;

That such charter change however should be entrusted to a Constitutional Convention whose members are duly elected directly by the people in an election called for the purpose.

Approved on October 17, 2006 at Pasig City, Philippines.

JOSE VICENTE B. SALAZAR
National President

FELICIANO M. BAUTISTA
Executive Vice President &
Governor for Central Luzon

ALICIA A. RISOS-VIDAL
Governor for Greater Manila

JOSE AMOR M. AMORADO
Governor for Southern Luzon

FELIMON C. ABELITA III
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Governor for Western Mindanao

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

His winning strokes

By Russell Arador
Tarlac City

IN THIS AGE OF MASS PRODUCTION and standardization, it truly pays to be different. Take it from 23-year-old Judeo Herrera, a senior fine arts student at the Tarlac State University (TSU) and twice grand prize winner of the prestigious ArtPetron national student art competition.

Last year, Herrera's 91.44 cm x 121.92 cm work, titled "Malikhaing Umpisa, Makulay na Pagsasama," won the grand prize in ArtPetron 5's oil painting category. In ArtPetron 6 this year, his entry, "Okir-Okir," bested more than 500 others, winning the grand prize in watercolor painting.

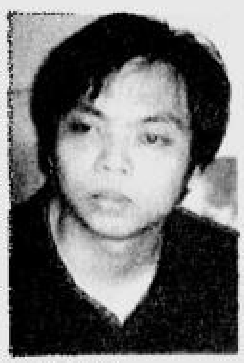
His winning streak in ArtPetron also gave him the distinct honor of being the only participant to win two consecutive grand prizes and grand prizes in two different categories.

How did he do it? By being "different," he says.

"Whenever I join a contest, the first thing that I do is to evaluate the work of previous winners. I want my work to be unique so that it would stand out. So I use a different approach, style or medium," he says.

For example, in coming up with a concept for his ArtPetron 5 entry last year, Herrera took note of the competition's theme "Lumang Samahan, Bagong Kahulugan."

"I realized that most participants would be painting about family, so I avoided doing something like that," he says.


RUSSELL ARADOR

HERRERA

What he came up with was—as described in the brochure of 2005 winners—a portrait telling the "colorful story of two friends sharing the same dream and seeing its fulfillment from crayons to paintbrushes."

As a grade school pupil, Herrera drew mostly Voltes V and other animated cartoon characters copied from his older brother Jefferson's own drawings. But he never took art activities seriously.

In high school, to fight boredom, he would sketch body parts of his teachers or anyone who happened to sit in front of him inside the classroom.

Herrera's mother Carmelita, an education professor at the TSU, says her son was in senior year in high school when he expressed a desire to join painting contests.

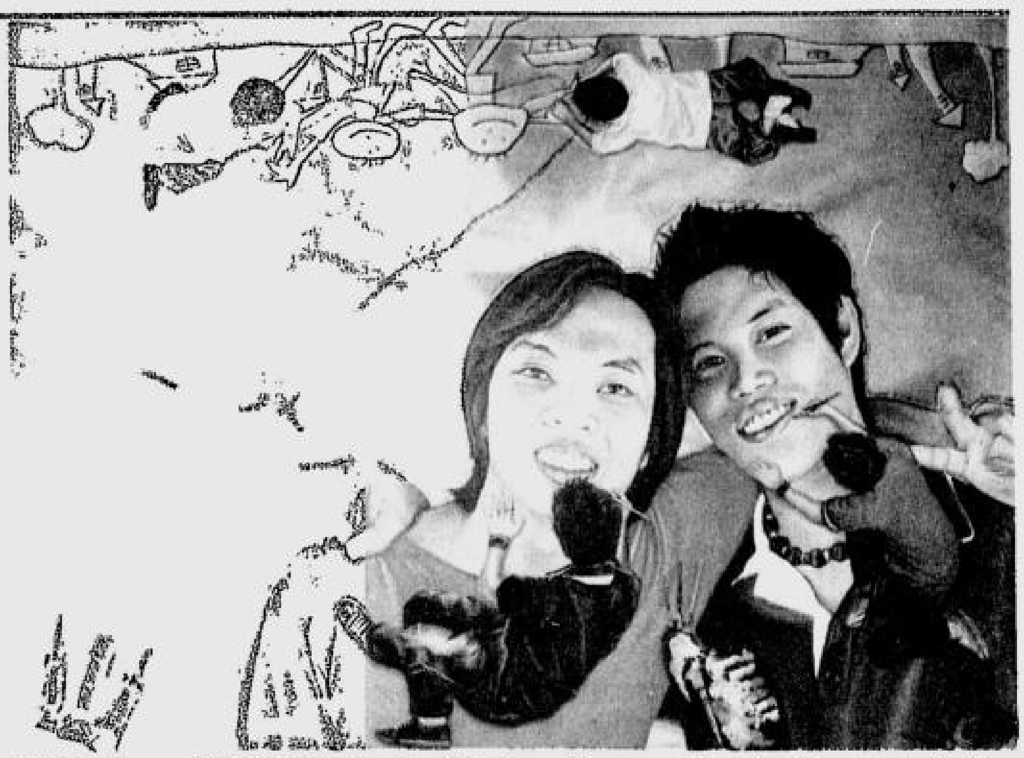
"I bought him crayons, paintbrushes and books on painting," she says.

He never won in those contests, but it was all right, the 52-year-old mother says. After all, her son's purpose was to watch how the other contestants mix colors and paint, and learn from them.

In college, Herrera met Mark Miclat, a fellow student who taught him how to paint. Together, they worked on backdrops and other materials used by the university during school activities. They also started the use of elaborate and artistically prepared backdrops at the TSU.

They also joined on-the-spot painting contests together. Miclat, who has been painting since childhood, helped Herrera by pointing out "technical errors" in his work. For two years, they went the rounds of painting competitions, but they never won.

When they finally won (in a local pastel competition), Herrera landed first place while Miclat, his best friend and mentor, came in second.


JUDEO Herrera's "Malikhaing Umpisa, Makulay na Pagsasama" received the grand prize in ArtPetron 5 (oil painting category) last year.

Herrera's watershed year was 2005. Aside from getting the grand prize in ArtPetron 5, he was a semifinalist in the Metrobank Arts and Design Excellence competition for his oil "Bridle on My Saddle," a bronze medalist in the Shell National Student Arts Competition, and second-prize winner in the PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) Directory Cover Visual Art National Competition for his 24" x 30" mixed media, "Transcendental Value of Love."

For his harvest of awards last year, he now has an enviable collection of plaques and trophies designed and executed by National Artist for Sculpture Napoleon Abueva.

He used a portion of the cash prizes he received, totaling more than P100,000, to buy a computer to learn digital design to upgrade his skills in preparation for an advertising job that he dreams of.

And if ever one is curious about the main source of Herrera's inspiration for his art works, one should only get a copy of the 2006 PLDT telephone directory for Northern Luzon.

On the cover is Herrera's PLDT-winning painting showing himself as a bemedalled child and his smiling mother on two ends of the canvas and between them are strewn heart-rending letters and text celebrating the "transcendental love" between mother and son.

It was also his mother who taught him to be unique. Her favorite words to him, repeated countless times: "The only way to prove something is to show the difference. Your work must be different from the rest so that it will stand out and be recognized."

Cowboy culture

HOMETOWN *Trivia*

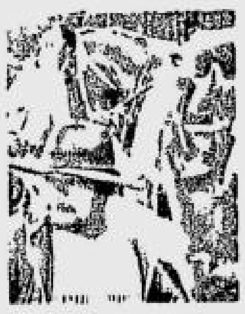
PEOPLE talk about Baguio 100 years ago as a pastureland for cows to explain the fascination with American cowboys. In fact, Mateo Cariño, the Ibaloi clan leader who used to own Camp John Hay and other parts of the old Baguio known then as Kafagway, was a "*ranchero*" (rancher).

Gerard Finin, in his recent book, "The Making of the Igorot: Contours of Cordillera Consciousness," said the mining boom in Benguet brought in American mining executives from the Cowboy West.

"Coming from states such as Arizona, Texas and California, most so-called sourdoughs and mining engineers, before reaching the Philippines, either came out of the experiences that gave rise to Western folklore or identified with its content," wrote Finin, who is deputy director of the East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program in Hawaii.

Frank Cimatu

Cordillera's educated highlanders


PONY boy attends to his horse. EV ESPIRITU

ANTHROPOLOGIST Gerard Finin said the strong flavor of the American "Westernness" was evident in the poem, "Camote Bill," written by James Pike, an engineer of Benguet Consolidated Inc. It told about the cowboy lifestyle of Pike's fellow mining engineers.

Finin said the "postwar education of educated highlanders" adopted the cowboy lifestyle as their cultural model, to differentiate it from the "Hispanized" cultural traits of the lowlanders.

"In its outward form, young highlanders pursuing studies in Baguio or employed in the mines took to wearing pants made from rough cotton drill or maong that contrasted with the sharply pressed seda preferred by lowlanders. White shirts were shunned in favor of checkered patterns, frequently accompanied by neckerchief," he said.

Cowboy boots and country western music naturally followed the highlander transformation. Barn dances and barbecue parties are still popular.

Frank Cimatu

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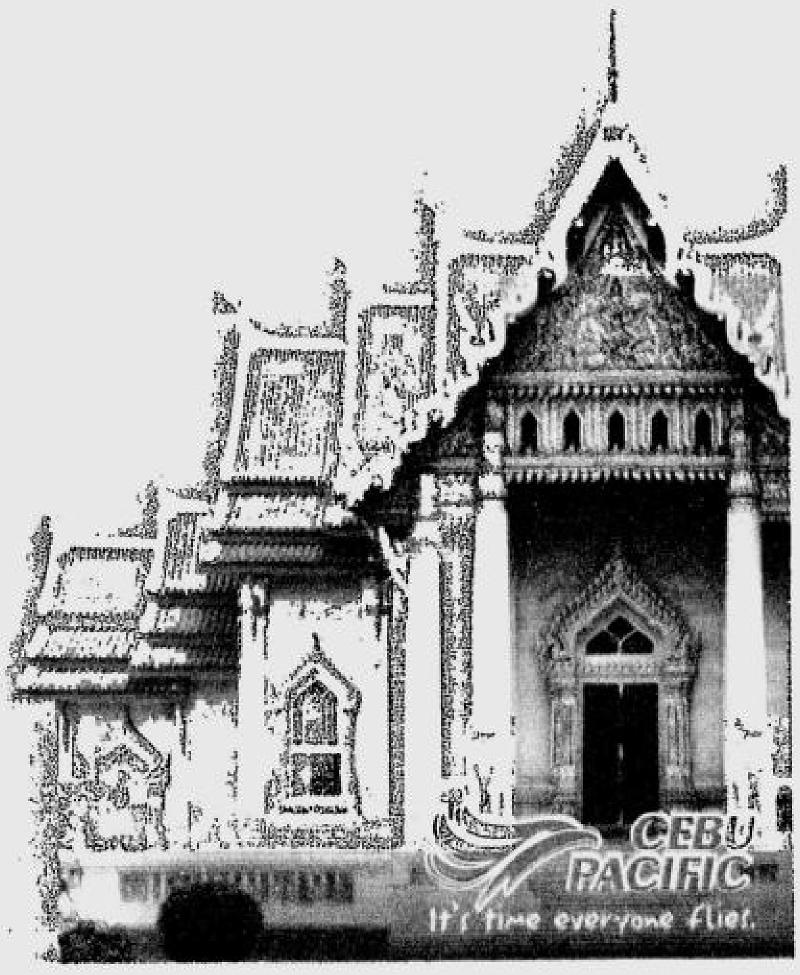

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DPWH workers carry the steel frame of a billboard that they removed in Davao City in line with the government's campaign to remove billboards that pose danger. The campaign followed several accidents involving billboards that killed four people at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo." Advertisers are supporting billboard regulation and discipline. BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

PAF plane destroyed in war games landing

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—Joint military exercises between Filipino and American troops were briefly disrupted here on Tuesday when a Philippine Air Force bomber plane skidded as it touched down at the Haribon complex of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

Reports from the PAF said the pilots, Capt. Villamor Feria and First Lt. Maureen Fajardo, suffered bruises when their OV-10 Bronco swerved to the right of the runway when the plane's right landing gear collapsed upon landing at about 10 a.m.

Brig. Gen. Gilbert Llanto, commander of the 600th Air Base Wing, the PAF host unit at Clark, said the plane landed on its right side in a grassy field along the runway.

Llanto said the pilots were taken to the Air Force City General Hospital here for X-ray tests and to allow them to rest. The hospital is 5 km north of the DMIA's Haribon complex.

"An incident like that is normal to us in the Air Force," Llanto said.

PAF reports said the pilots had completed maneuvers for the flight training held under the Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercises when the incident occurred.

It was the first for such incident during the 15-day exercise that began on Oct. 15.

In January this year, an OV-10 plane crashed in a fishing village in Paombong, Bulacan. The pilot in that crash died. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Billboard regulation a model in Cebu City

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, THE cooperation between the outdoor advertising industry and the local government units in Cebu in regulating billboards has gone a long way.

Since the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines-Cebu chapter (OAAP) was established in the 1960s, the organization had been supporting local government units in enforcing regulations of signage and billboard installations, the local group president, Mary Ann Alcordo-Solomon, told the INQUIRER.

"We were the first to pass a local ordinance that would regulate the installation and setting up of billboards and signage. We keep on policing our own ranks and we support the local government units' policies and regulations," she said.

Foresight

As early as 1973, the Cebu City government had passed Ordinance No. 863, establishing the signboard committee, which has the task of regulating the installation of signages and billboards, recalled Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama, chair of the zoning board.

In 1983, the city council approved Ordinance No. 1315, which regulates the position of billboards to prevent obstruction of traffic and road right of ways.

The OAAP-Cebu reports any violations of both members and nonmembers to Cebu City's signboard committee and the Office of Building Official of the component cities, Solomon said.

The proactive role taken by the OAAP-Cebu, in monitoring the billboards of its 11 members and even nonmembers, has helped the local governments, she added.

Rama agreed as he commended OAAP-Cebu for its role in helping police its ranks.

Preparedness

On the safety issue, Solomon said the OAAP-Cebu also monitors wind gustiness to ensure that all billboards are taken off every time heavy winds are expected.

Meanwhile, Solomon said the outdoor advertising industry here welcomed the planned regulation of billboards following the destruction caused by falling billboards in Metro Manila at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo."

But she decried the negative perception about billboards. "The billboard industry shouldn't be condemned. In Cebu, we have strictly enforced the regulations and we continue to educate each other," she said.

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña also favors the proposed regulation by the national government of outdoor advertising as he noted that giant billboards have started getting out of hand in the city.

"We still have that problem here in Cebu although we are better off than Manila because we have less demand for giant billboards here," Osmeña told the INQUIRER.

Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano, in a separate interview, said he prefers to have "unipoles," instead of giant billboards, hang on buildings.

Ouano said the unipoles do not only look attractive but are sturdy and could withstand strong winds.

However, he said the city still allows billboards but the regulations and requirements are implemented strictly.

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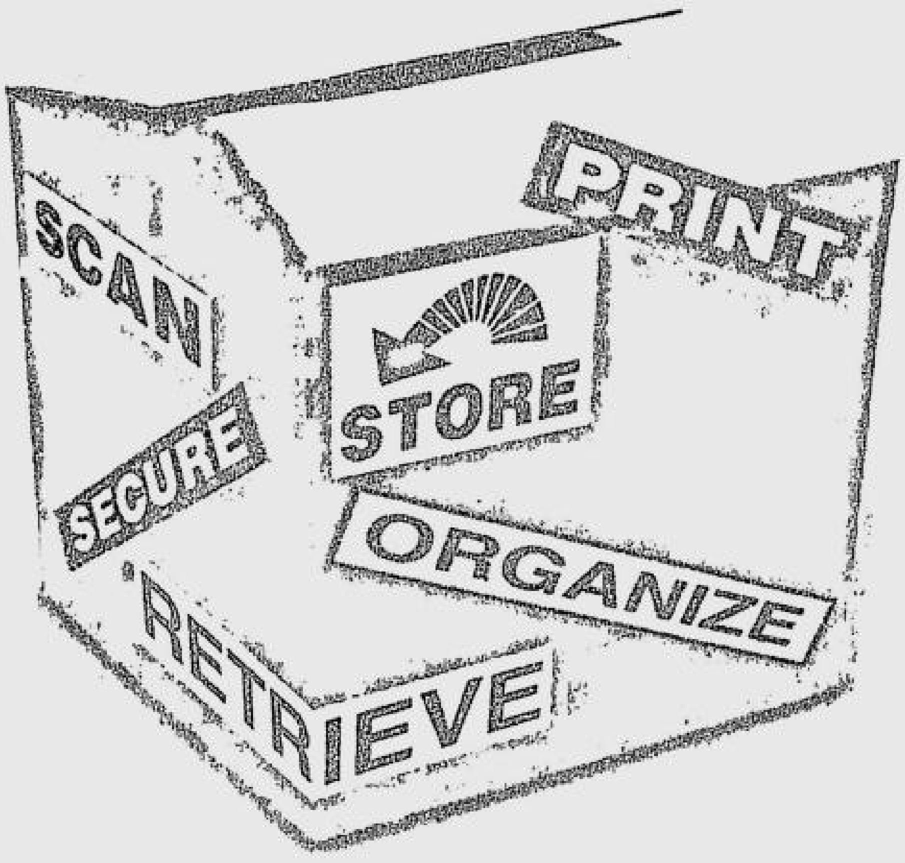

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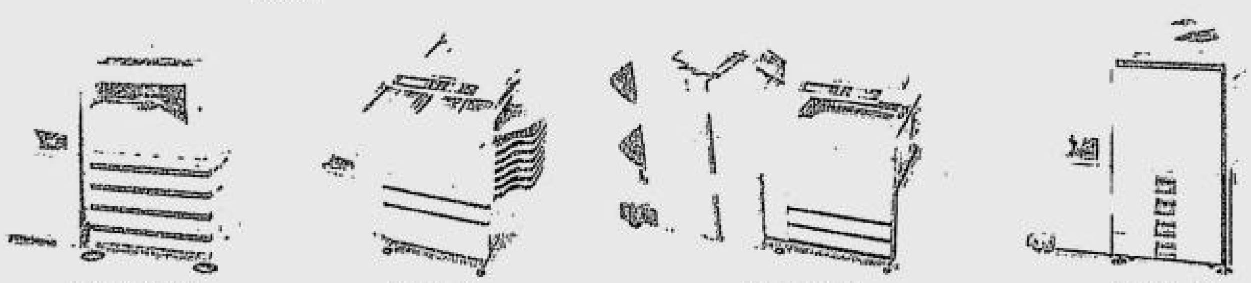

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Greenpeace stages protest in Makati: '73 days and still ticking'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BUILDINGS, FENCES AND EVERY free surface in Makati City were turned into walls of protest on Monday night when environmental advocates toured the country's financial district to rouse an oil giant allegedly sleeping on its responsibility for the country's worst oil spill.

Armed with a powerful manual projector, members of Greenpeace Southeast Asia displayed around the city their demands for Petron Corp. to own up to its liability in the massive oil spill that hit the coasts of Guimaras and Iloilo.

"We have noticed that there are efforts to downplay the role of Petron in the oil spill, while it should be the one mainly accountable. We want to target the public to pressure Petron ... this is the only way to neutralize the efforts to downplay its [liability]," said Beau Baconguis, Greenpeace toxics campaigner for Southeast Asia.

Like ticking time bomb

On walls, buildings and even the steel Metro Rail Transit (MRT) tracks over Guadalupe Bridge, Greenpeace volunteers directed messages urging Petron to pay for the retrieval of the MT Solar I, the Petron-chartered tanker which sank off Guimaras on Aug. 11 amid turbulent waters while carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

"Guimaras is like a ticking time bomb. Why is it taking too long to retrieve the oil? The threat to marine life will continue until oil [in the tanker's hold] is retrieved," Baconguis told the INQUIRER.

Among the messages displayed were "73 days and still ticking," in reference to the number of days since oil began leaking from the Solar I, and "Petron, take the xtra-challenge," a dare which parodies the oil firm's commercial.

"Petron should take the challenge to stop the oil spill," Baconguis said.

The group had originally planned to project the messages onto white cloth that volunteer climbers would hang from an empty billboard frame on the northbound side of Edsa's Guadalupe stretch. But its projector proved powerless against the strong lights illuminating surrounding commercial billboards. The group then decided to use friendlier surfaces.

Monday night's protest was part of Greenpeace's effort to air its demand for Petron to "speed up the process of extracting the oil as soon as possible by guaranteeing the expected costs, immediately intensifying relief operations, committing to pay for the continuing cleanup, rehabilitating and monitoring the area (Guimaras), and compensating [affected] communities for [residents'] lost income since Aug. 11 up to at least a year," the group said in a statement.

Fish are jumping, but living not easy

From page A1

recovery operations in the area.

"Not yet, they were told," Coscolluela says.

The Department of Health issued warnings on food safety in the affected coastline after the Solar I sank in stormy waters off Guimaras while ferrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil for Petron from Bataan to Zamboanga.

A 24-member research team from Silliman University commissioned by Petron conducted a weeklong rapid assessment and found that the oil spill had polluted 184 kilometers of coastline, 1,141 hectares of the mangrove ecosystem and about 88 ha of seagrass beds in Guimaras alone. It also spoiled tourist resorts and polluted fish haunts.

Coral reefs do not appear to have been affected, the team reported.

Scientists from a host of universities and environmental groups are currently in the area conducting a more detailed study that they hope would serve as basis for long-term rehabilitation of the environment and the communities in the affected region.

November summit

After the 10-week assessment, the scientists will call a summit in late November to announce their findings, says Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, head of the Philippine branch of the World Wildlife Fund based in Gland, Switzerland.

Local and national officials, the academe, environmentalists, NGOs and Petron will be invited to the event to discuss the situation in Guimaras and agree on a road map for the islanders.

Then a donor round-table will be organized to raise financing.

"You want to help, wait," says Tan. "We're buying time for the scientific community to do the work properly in this particular case. Considering the high ecological dependence of the economy of Guimaras, if you don't do this right, if you make the decision based on political expediency, this could be really screwed up."

Lessons from Aceh

Tan points to lessons from Aceh, the region in Indonesia's Sumatra island devastated by a tsunami in December 2004. In spite of the outpouring of international aid well into the hundreds of millions of dollars, Aceh has not yet fully recovered. Many people there are still waiting for their flattened homes to be rebuilt.

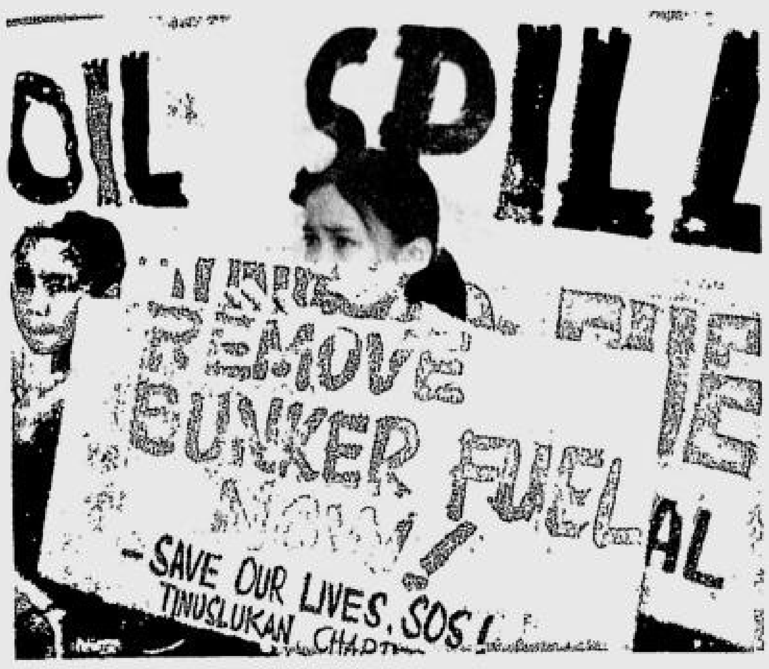
In Guimaras now, there are many resources available, as there were in Aceh.

"When you have too much money and too many cooks, that's a recipe for disaster. That's a second disaster because what dominates is the burn rate rather than output," says Tan.

This kind of specter appears to be rearing its ugly head in Guimaras.

Political intrusions

Barangay captains are allegedly attempting to get a piece of the action, demanding a percentage of the cash for work program. At least that's the complaint from some villagers that Tan says he is getting. He is upset by it.



SAVE OUR LIVES, residents appeal to the national government during a rally of mostly fishermen at the Nueva Valencia plaza in Guimaras led by Mayor Disodado Gonzaga. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Gov. JC Rahman Nava of Guimaras wants to control rebuilding efforts, including funding, even ahead of the completion of the scientific assessment. He has drawn up a P250-million "rehabilitation framework" that he says he will submit to a donor meeting on Oct. 26.

Nava has recommended the immediate promotion of agri-industries, freshwater fisheries and deep-sea fishing, poultry, livestock and swine production, development of roads, ports and wharves. He also wants to restart an agri-tourism economy, meaning develop inland potential for visitors to come and see.

"Many have manifested their intention to provide their support for our rehabilitation program," says Nava.

High standard of accounting

The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC) will pay for damage caused by the oil spill, regardless of fault. That's provided under international conventions. Compensation includes restoration of damaged ecosystems as well as affected livelihoods.

If a connection can be established that villagers' earnings have been directly affected by the oil spill, they will be paid for their losses.

"A very, very high standard of accounting and accountability is required," says Tan. "I don't know if the other players are ready to make that commitment."

Petron in the meantime is shelling out money for the cleanup—around P5 million a day. This will be reimbursed by IOPC. Under its cash for work program, Petron is paying each worker P300 a day to sweep, wipe and wash away the sludge on the beaches.

It is a long process.

Oil has seeped several inches into the sand. Every time there's high tide, oil percolates. During low tide, work gangs clean up the oil that has resurfaced. This cycle will go on for several months, says Tan.

Alternative livelihoods

"There is much work that needs to be done, involving many disciplines," says Tan in a paper on "Guimaras and beyond."

"Careful ecological assessments need to be done. Temporary alternative livelihoods need to be provided and sustainable sources of income must be put in place. All the remaining oil residuals need to be recovered quickly and removed safely.

"A multiyear ecological rehabilitation and recovery plan needs to be formulated and embedded into the province's own master plan," Tan says.

Coscolluela says it is essential to get the coastal people to go back to what they used to do -- primarily, fishing.

"We have practically no experience for tropical areas as far as oil spills are concerned and rehabilitation," says the former governor of Negros Oriental. He points out that previous oil spills have occured in cold climes, in Alaska, Spain, France, the Scandinavian countries, for example.

Science-based approach

"The buzz word is science-based approach to rehabilitation," says Coscolluela.

"You couldn't just wade in there," he says. "You could be causing more damage. For example in their eagerness, some people entered the mangrove areas and started cleaning up. They ended up trampling all these breeeding organs." he says.

"There were attempts to use detergents and nobody really knew what kind of damage these detergents would cause. This happened in France in 2004. They used large amounts of detergents and they become more of a problem than the oil."

Tan is optimistic.

"Indications are that the Philippine coastal system, being in a typhoon area, being in the coral triangle which is probably the one place in the world with the greatest marine resilience ... we're going to bounce back," says Tan.

But for now, it's not summertime, when the living is easy.

With a report from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Reinventing Guimaras: An island of unfulfilled dreams

From page A1

assets, equipment and the tough task of economic survival.

Unfortunately, the new local governments did not have the proper structures, leadership, technical competence and resources to handle the demands of "devolved governance."

Many development experts feel the province will have to dramatically reinvent itself if it is to fulfill the development promise brought about by its misfortune.

Unfulfilled dreams

Guimaras is still a province of unfulfilled dreams. The 60,457-hectare island is rich in natural resources.

It sustains its people with 48,378 ha devoted to agriculture, which yields high-value crops, like coconut, cashew, lime (kalamansi) and, of course, world-famous Guimaras mangoes.

Over half of the population depends on fishing for its daily subsistence. More than half of its population of 151,000 lives along the main island coastline of 300 kilometers and gets sustenance from the rich bounty of the sea.

Some 4,000 fisherfolk cast their nets daily from nonmotorized boats, netting about 10,000 metric tons of fish a year.

Bangus and tilapia culture yields an additional 363 metric tons a year, while seaweeds provide five metric tons annually.

Its famed biodiversity provides Guimaras with marine sanctuaries and conservation areas covering 1,714 ha, as well as 135 ha of coral reefs, 958 ha of mangrove forests, 135 ha of sea grass, and 107 ha of seaweed farms.

Tourism potential

Tourism resorts around the main island and islets employ around 500 persons directly and another 50 indirectly as tour guides and service providers.

Associated tourism sectors in food production and processing, land and sea transport, and handicraft-making provide jobs for another 1,200 residents.

All told, the province racked up 181,915 tourist arrivals in 2005, generating P204 million in revenues.

With its rich biodiversity, the dive spots in Guimaras are among the best in the country. At the Taklong Island National Marine Reserve alone can be found 29 species of hard coral, 144 species of fish, seven species of sea grass and three species of mangroves.

To conserve the island's coastal and marine ecosystems, some P54 million was spent from 1998 to 2005 for mangrove reforestation, solid waste management, and natural tourist attraction development.

All this effort moved the province from one of the 20 poorest provinces to the 44th, according to the National Statistics Coordination Board. The international publicity generated by the oil spill could be a blessing in disguise, if provincial authorities are up to the task.

The road ahead

There are roads to build, tourist destinations to develop, and seaports and wharves to construct. These will require technical and managerial expertise never before required of Guimaras' local government officials.

Many development institutions, like the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) of Switzerland, are hard at work trying to put method into the Herculean task of rebuilding Guimaras.

It won't be easy.

The economic and ecological rehabilitation of Guimaras will require a long-term partnership among government agencies, private corporations, and global institutions involved in environmental conservation, according to leading scientists and academics.

The Philippine president of WWF, Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, in a paper circulated after the oil spill, said "a multiyear ecological rehabilitation and recovery plan needs to be formulated, and embedded into the province's own master plan."

Template for development

"This template will be essential for monitoring, evaluation, and most important of all, continuity," Tan said. "A roundtable conference must be organized to integrate resource pledges and address funding gaps. There are many interested individuals, corporations and institutions with regional, national and global mandates."

He added: "The rehabilitation of Guimaras must not be merely a scientific or political exercise; rather, it must be a replicable model that communities, corporations, and local governments can emulate and benefit from."

Tan said the WWF hoped to help the University of Philippines-Visayas "establish a solid scientific platform for an effective and multiyear initiative ... A science-based, community-led plan is a catalyst for continuity, transparency, accountability, and ultimately, quantifiable results."

Easier said than done

When all is said and done, many are hoping that more will be done than said.

Guimaras may still emerge from the oil spill with a resurgent economy. But it will take scientists and scholars, engineers and environmentalists, conceivers and conservationists knocking their hard hats together to find lasting solutions to the problems of Guimaras.

Above all, it will take political leadership of the highest order—not merely the kind that wins elections—but a rare brand of statesmanship that can harness resources and talent more diverse than the province's famed biodiversity, and make them yield miraculous results.

The reinvention of Guimaras into a 21st-century province will require the transformation of its provincial leadership from patronage politics.

Gov. JC Rahman Nava has his job cut out for him.

Many are hoping he can dig deep into his political bag of tricks to produce managerial and technical prowess of the kind required by the journey into the 21st-century of the sleepy island-province of Guimaras.

He will have to become a Lee Kuan Yew. Otherwise, the island is doomed.

Loren, Ping, Kiko top SWS survey for senatorial candidates

From page A1

of 1,200 voting-age adults (18 years old and above). It had an error margin of 3 percentage points nationally.

Legarda also topped a separate poll conducted by the research group Ibon Foundation Inc.

She was also the front-runner in the last Pulse Asia Survey on senatorial preferences conducted in June-July .

"Loren Legarda leads the list of 46 possible senatorial candidates ... with 43 percent of intended votes if elections were held today," SWS said in a statement.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson placed second with 37 percent, while Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan ranked third with 36 percent, according to SWS.

It said the others who could make it to the winning slate if elections were held today were Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. who were tied for fourth and fifth places at 34 percent;

Former Sen. Vicente Sotto III and incumbent Sen. Ralph Recto who were tied for sixth and seventh places at 32 percent each; San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, who placed eighth at 29 percent;

Former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and radio-TV broadcaster Korina Sanchez, who tied for ninth and 10th places at 25 percent each. Tied for the 11th-13th places at 23 percent were Senators Luisa "Loi" Estrada and Edgardo Angara, and Rep. Francis Escudero.

3 Estradas

If the survey proved prophetic and the elections were held today, there would be three Estradas in the next Senate—Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, his mother and his half-brother JV Ejercito.

Hovering around the winning circle in the SWS survey were Rep. Imee Marcos, who was in 14th place at 22 percent, and incumbent Sen. Joker Arroyo, Rep. Rufino Biazon and Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who were tied for 15th-17th places at 21 percent each.

Legarda, the running mate of the late opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in the May 2004 elections, has a pending electoral protest against Vice President Noli de Castro.

Legarda was also the front-runner in the Ibon survey conducted from Oct. 2 to 12. The survey dealt not only with senatorial choices but also with people's perception of the economy, their income and livelihood, government performance and other issues.

Identified with administration

The Ibon survey involved 1,481 respondents nationwide. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

"Those identified with the administration who made (it to) the top 12 have also been critical of the government's policies," said Ibon's executive brief, referring to Senators Pangilinan, Recto, Villar and Arroyo.

The top 12 choices from a list of 60 potential candidates provided by Ibon and their percentages:

Legarda, 45.2 percent; Francisco Pangilinan, 37.2 percent; Imee Marcos, 31.3 percent; Alan Peter Cayetano, 30.7 percent; lawyer Aquilino Pimentel III, 30.2 percent; Ralph Recto, 29.9 percent; Francis Escudero, 28.8 percent; Manuel Villar, 26.2 percent; Joker Arroyo, 24.2 percent; Vicente Sotto III, 23.6 percent; broadcaster Ted Failon, 22.7 percent; and JV Ejercito, 22.2 percent.

Barbers and Fernando

Benigno Aquino III came in 13th and Honasan 14th in the Ibon poll followed by party-list representatives Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis, who placed 15th and 16th, respectively.

The only staunchly administration allies who made it to Ibon's top 24 were Surigao Del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, who came in 20th, and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who placed 22nd.

Ibon also asked its respondents who they would vote for senator without being provided a list of prospective candidates.

A different 12

Those who made it to the top 12 in this particular question were Pangilinan, 19.9 percent; Escudero, 19.7 percent; Sotto, 18.8 percent; Ramon Revilla, Jr., 18 percent; Legarda, 17.2 percent; Panfilo Lacson, 16.7 percent; Jamby Madrigal, 14.4 percent; Ralph Recto, 13.6 percent; Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., 12.8 percent; Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 12.6 percent; Jinggoy Estrada, 12.4 percent; and Lito Lapid, 12.3 percent.

The results included senators who were elected in 2004 and whose terms will run until 2010. They were Revilla, Madrigal, Pimentel, Santiago, Estrada and Lapid.

RP-Japan accord 'toxic'

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tice banned by the Basel Convention to which the Philippines and Japan are signatories.

Former Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor, now the presidential chief of staff, twice opposed the inclusion of hazardous and prohibited waste in the JPEPA.

Sought for comment yesterday on whether he maintained his position after the Helsinki pact, Defensor said in a text message to the INQUIRER: "Yup. Still my stand but I'm sure Prez [President] wasnt able to read the details of that."

Alarmed environmentalists and nationalist trade advocates are now scrambling to convince the Philippine Senate, the country's treaty ratifying body, to reject the JPEPA when it is transmitted to Congress.

To them, the deal with Japan is simply an elaborate exchange of health care for health care waste.

"We are going to get poisoned here. We're sending them healthy bodies, doctors and nurses who will take care of their health, and what do we get? Poison," Green Initiatives Inc. chief executive officer Mimi Sison said in an interview.

Trade experts described the pact covering 11,300 tariff lines or commodities as a mega-treaty that could set the tone for future bilateral agreements.

A briefing paper prepared by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources says 141 of these items are "environmentally sensitive products deemed potentially hazardous to health and the environment if not handled properly."

THE HANDSHAKE SEALS THE PACT. President Arroyo and then Japanese PM Junichiro Koizumi clinch a free trade agreement in September in Helsinki featuring not only trade in goods and services but the unprecedented step of opening the door to Filipino health workers.

PDI PHOTO

RP can't treat own waste

The Philippines, which has its own laws against the importation and transport of toxic and hazardous waste, is already struggling—often unsuccessfully—to dispose of and treat at least 2.5 million tons of locally generated hazardous waste each year.

"We cannot even handle our household waste, and we have no recycling industry," said Sison.

The types of toxic and hazardous waste listed in the JPEPA were initially dubbed by the government as recyclable materials, which are legally traded goods.

Article 29 of the basic agreement of the JPEPA, however, stipulates that the trade covers articles "which can no longer perform their original purpose ... nor are capable of being restored or repaired and which are fit only for disposal or for the recovery of parts or raw materials."

Scrap and waste derived from manufacturing or processing operations or from consumption which are, again, "fit only for disposal or for the recovery of raw materials," as well as raw materials and parts "which can no longer perform their original purpose nor are capable of being restored or repaired" are also included.

Fit for disposal only

"How can you say this is for recycling if the agreement says they are only fit for disposal?" said Tanya Lat, Akbayan legal counsel and trade law expert who has been following the JPEPA negotiations.

Akbayan was one of the petitioners that asked the Supreme Court to compel the Department of Trade and Industry to provide the special committee on globalization in Congress with a copy of the JPEPA draft and to restrain the DTI from concluding or signing the JPEPA or transmitting it to the President until full disclosure had been made.

The Supreme Court failed to decide on the petition for mandamus and prohibition filed in December last year until Ms Arroyo and Koizumi signed the treaty in Helsinki.

The JPEPA is the Philippines' first bilateral trade accord since the 1946 parity agreement with the United States. It is seen as a move to strengthen economic integration between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Japan is the Philippines' No. 1 trading partner in Asia and No. 2 in the world. It is also one of the biggest providers of official development assistance to the Philippines.

"This is a new kind of agreement," Aquino said during a hearing of the House special committee on globalization on Feb. 28, 2005.

A month after the unveiling of the JPEPA, environmentalists and nationalist trade experts were fuming over the inclusion of waste, like incinerator ash and health care discards, on the list of goods to be traded.

'This is treason'

"It's unspeakable ... this is treason," Mother Earth founder Odette Alcantara said of the list of zero-tariff waste under the JPEPA.

Alcantara, whose group lobbied for years for the passage of Republic Act No. 8749, or the Philippine Clean Air Act, that banned incinerators in the country, said the JPEPA would defeat the law as it encourages the entry of the highly toxic incinerator ash.

"We did not pass the Clean Air Act only to import incinerator ash. That's distorted. We banned incinerators here precisely so we would not have incinerator ash, and yet we'll import it?" Sison said.

Metodio Palaypay, a waste management expert from the University of the Philippines, said there was a known technology to immobilize incinerator ash but it was not available in the Philippines because it was too expensive. The United States and Europe have the technology.

"There is no way you can recycle incinerator ash; it's 20 times more toxic than what you put in," Palaypay said.

Unfounded

In its briefing paper, however, the DENR stressed that no provision in the JPEPA explicitly allows the trade of banned items or liberalized entry of regulated products.

Environment Undersecretary Demetrio L. Ignacio said the environmentalists' concerns were unfounded.

He said Republic Act No. 6969, or the Toxic Substance and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act of 1990, prohibits the entry of hazardous waste into and their disposal within the country for whatever purpose, including transit. The law sets a penalty of 12 to 20 years imprisonment for violators.

"It (JPEPA) will not violate our laws in the sense that they (toxic and hazardous waste) will not be coming in because they are banned in the first place," said Ignacio.

"The objective of the Philippines was to get the JPEPA approved, and the environment is not a concession actually because it has no effect on our laws, that's why there is no harm, in other words," Ignacio said.

TIMELINE

Dec. 4, 2002 - The Japan-Philippines Economic Agreement is initiated during a visit by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Japan. Discussions begin in a working group and a joint coordinating team from the two countries.

May 2003 - The Philippine Coordinating Committee is created to study and negotiate the proposed JPEPA. The committee is headed jointly by Department of Trade and Industry Senior Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino and Foreign Undersecretary Edsel Custodio.

February 2004 - Formal negotiations between the Philippines and Japan start.

November 2004 - Party-list Representatives Mario Joyo Aguja and Lorenzo Tañada III call for an inquiry into the JPEPA after receiving complaints that the DTI had denied requests for a copy of the proposed JPEPA.

Nov. 29, 2004 - President Arroyo and Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi agree on major elements of a JPEPA that would lead to the immediate removal of tariffs on certain fruits, vehicles, steel products, electronic appliances and garments.

Feb. 28, 2005 - House Special Committee on Globalization starts hearings on the JPEPA but still fails to secure a copy of the proposed JPEPA from DTI.

Nov. 2, 2005 -Aquino informs Aguja that the draft JPEPA will be provided after a review of the proposed agreement has been conducted.

Dec. 6, 2005 - Party-list lawmakers and NGOs go to the Supreme Court to seek a restraining order to prevent the government from signing JPEPA.

May 25, 2006 - Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura tells Supreme Court it has no jurisdiction over treaties being negotiated.

Sept. 9, 2006 - President Arroyo and Prime Minister Koizumi sign the JPEPA in Finland ahead of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

Sept. 11, 2006 - DTI furnishes Congress with copies of the JPEPA on the first working day after the treaty was signed. It also uploaded the text of the JPEPA in its website at http://business.gov.ph/filedirectory/JPEPA.pdf *Lawrence De Guzman, Inquirer Research*

From incinerator ash . . .

From page A1

chemical or allied industries.

- Municipal waste.
- Clinical waste, like used surgical gloves, adhesive dressing, gauze.
- Waste of metal pickling liquors, hydraulic fluid, brake fluid and antifreeze.
- Worn clothing and other worn articles, including rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables of textile materials.
- Polychlorinated biphenyls.
- Halogenated chlorofluorocarbons.

These types of waste are among over 100 environmentally sensitive products, including chemicals, persistent organic pollutants and ozone-depleting substances, that would not be taxed upon entry into the country as soon as the JPEPA takes effect.

Negotiator admits prohibited waste on list

From page A1

Aquino said this was a technicality that needed to be done.

He said various types of waste were on the list of products that have HS classification, or harmonized system. This lists products under tariff headings or tariff lines that are given specific numbers to identify each class of particular products and their corresponding duties.

Aquino admitted that different types of prohibited waste were placed on the list of products under the JPEPA.

"In essence, the tariffs for these products have no real use because the products are banned. That is why during negotiations (like what we had for the JPEPA), this is one of the easiest and first things to be done—eliminating useless tariffs."

Following Philippine laws, prohibited products cannot enter the country, Aquino said.

The Japanese were perplexed at why it took the Philippine side so long to agree on the waste issue, he added.

The issue of waste had been one of the last items tackled before negotiators wrapped up the JPEPA following four years of work, including two and a half years of actual negotiations.

Legislatures to approve pact

Also, Aquino said Manila and Tokyo were set to work on a protocol on how to implement and realize the JPEPA after it had been ratified by both legislatures.

"This would not mean more negotiations, but setting up a protocol or rules on how to do things under JPEPA."

Aquino said the pact was considered a building block of multilateral efforts at the World Trade Organization, which would be notified of the agreement.

"Based on WTO rules, all products that are subject to tariffs must face reduced duties, including 'waste,'" Aquino said. "But there are also laws that define regulations and prohibitions on the trade in waste."

The JPEPA may encourage trade in waste if the resulting reductions in tariffs will make it worthwhile economically—or profitable—for a firm to engage in such trade, Aquino said.

Regulated waste

"But (the Philippines) would allow only trade in regulated—and not prohibited—waste allowed under Philippine laws and international agreements that the country is a party to.

"There is much such waste from Japan that we may not yet be familiar with like some waste from the electronics industry," Aquino said. "JPEPA would help us learn about these waste."

Aquino said the protocol would strengthen the efforts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as well as the Bureau of Customs on the prohibition against toxic waste. "(It) would serve to safeguard and complement our internal policies."

List of environment-related products/items being prohibited or regulated by the DENR

OVER A HUNDRED ITEMS WILL have zero tariff as soon as the JPEPA comes into form.

Ash and residue (other than from the manufacture of iron or steel) containing arsenic, metals or their compounds

- Containing mainly zinc: Hard zinc spelter
- Other
- Containing mainly lead:

Leaded gasoline sludge and leaded anti-knock compound sludge

- Other
- Containing mainly copper
- Containing mainly aluminum
- Containing arsenic, mercury, thallium or their mixtures, of a kind used for the extraction of arsenic or those metals or for the manufacture of their chemical compounds
- Other:
  - Containing antimony, beryllium, cadmium, chromium or their mixtures
  - Other
- Other slag and ash, including seaweed ash (kelp); ash and residue from the incineration of municipal waste
  - Ash and residue from the incineration of municipal waste
  - Other
- Halogenated derivatives of hydrocarbons
  - Carbon tetrachloride
  - Other [1,1,1 trichloroethane (methyl-chloroform) (1,1,1-TCA)]
  - Trichlorotrifluoromethane (CFC-11)
  - Trichlorotrifluoroethanes (CFC-113)
  - Dichlorotetrafluoroethanes and chloropentafluoroethane (CFC-114 & CFC-115)
  - Other derivatives perhalogenated only with fluorine and chlorine such as the following:

Chlorotrifluoromethane (CFC-13)

Pentachlorofluoroethane (CFC-111)

Tetrachlorodifluoroethane (CFC-112)

Heptachlorofluoropropanes (CFC-211)

Hexachlorodifluoropropanes (CFC-212)

Pentachlorotrifluoropropanes (CFC-213)

Tetrachlorotetrafluoropropanes (CFC-214)

Trichloropentafluoropropanes (CFC-215)

Dichlorohexafluoropropanes (CFC-216)

Chloroheptafluoropropanes (CFC-217)

Bromochlorodifluoromethane (Halon 1211), bromotrifluoromethane (Halon 1301) and dibromotetrafluoroethanes (Halon 2402)

- Residual products of the chemical or allied industries, not elsewhere specified or included; municipal waste; sewage sludge; other wastes specified in Note 6 of this Chapter
  - Municipal waste
  - Sewage sludge
  - Clinical waste
  - Adhesive dressings & other articles having adhesive layer; waddling gauze bandages; surgical gloves
  - Other
  - Waste organic solvents:
  - Halogenated
  - Other
- Wastes of metal pickling liquors, hydraulic fluids, brake fluids and anti-freeze fluids
- Other wastes from chemical or allied industries:
  - Mainly containing organic constituents
  - Other
- Other
- Asbestos
- Beryllium silicates
- Beryllium ores
- Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel
- Slag, dross (other than granulated slag), scalings and other waste from the manufacture of iron and steel Benzol (benzene)
- Phenols
- Waste oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)
- Arsenic
- Selenium
- Mercury
- Sulphuric acid; oleum
- Other (Arsenic acid)
- Other (Diarsenic pentaoxide)
- Other (Phosgene; carbonyl chloride; carbonic dichloride)
- Chromium trioxide
- Lead monoxide (litharge, massicot)
- Red lead and orange lead
- Hydrazine and hydroxylamine and their inorganic salts
- Other (Beryllium oxide; Cadmium oxide or hydroxide)
- Cadmium sulphide
- Other sulphates:
  - Of chromium
- Other (tribasic lead sulphate; cadmium sulphate)
- Other (Cadmium nitrate)
- Lead carbonate
- Cyanide, cyanide oxides and complex cyanides
  - Of Sodium
  - Other
  - Complex cyanides
- Fulminates, cyanates and thiocyanates
- Other borates (Cadmium borates)
- Chromates of zinc or of lead
- Sodium dichromate
- Other chromates and dichromates; peroxochromates
- Other (Cadmium borotungstate; cadmium potassium iodide)
- Phosphides
- Benzene
- Alkylbenzene (Dodecylbenzene)
- Other alkylbenzene
- Chloromethane (methyl chloride) and chloroethane (ethyl chloride)
- Dichloromethane (methylene chloride)
- Chloroform (trichloromethane)
- 1,2 Dichloroethane (ethylene dichloride)
- Other (Hexachloroethane)
- Vinyl chloride (chloroethylene); Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM)
- Trichloroethylene
- Tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene)
- Fluorinated, brominated or iodinated derivatives of acyclic hydrocarbons (1,2 dibromoethane; ethylene dibromide); methyl bromide
- Dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12)
- Other [Derivatives of methane, ethane or propane, halogenated only with fluorine and chlorine (HCFCs); Derivatives of methane, ethane and propane, halogenated only with fluorine and bromine (HBFCs)]
- Chlorobenzene, o-dichlorobenzene and p-dichlorobenzene)
- Hexachlorobenzene and DDT (1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(p-chlorophenyl) ethane
- Other (Dichlorobenzene)
- Other (Chloropicrin; methane, trichloronitro)
- Other (Glutaraldehyde; pentanedial)
- Resorcinol and its salts (1,3 Benzenediol/3-hydroxyphenol)
- Derivatives containing only halogen substituents and their salts (Phenol, pentachloro)
- Diethyl ether
- Other (Methyl tertiary butyl ether)
- Cyclanic, cyclenic or cycloterpenic ethers and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives
- Other (Chlorinated ethers)
- Oxirane (ethylene oxide)
- Methanal (formaldehyde)
- Other acyclic aldehydes without other oxygen function
- Paraformaldehyde
- Halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives (Mirex)
- Phthalic anhydride
- Other (Sulfuric acid; diethyl ester)
- Organic derivatives of hydrazine or of hydroxylamine (Isocyanates; hydrazobenzene)
- Other (Mercaptan, perchloromethyl; methanesulfenyl chloride, trichloro)
- Other organo-inorganic compounds (Tetraethyl lead; tributyltin)
- Compounds containing in the structure a benzothiazole ring-system (whether or not hydrogenated, not further fused) 2(3H) Benzothiazolethione
- Containing acyclic hydrocarbons perhalogenated only with fluorine and chlorine
- Other
- Other (Mixtures containing perhalogenated derivatives of acyclic hydrocarbons containing two or more different halogens (for blends)
- Waste, parings and scrap, of plastics
  - Of polymers of ethylene
  - Of polymers of styrene
  - Of polymers of vinyl chloride
  - Of other plastics
- Ash containing precious metal or precious metal compounds
- Other waste and scrap of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal; other waste and scrap containing precious metal or precious metal compounds, of a kind used principally for the recovery of precious metal:
  - Of gold, including metal clad with gold but excluding sweepings containing other precious metals
  - Of platinum, including metal clad with platinum but excluding sweepings containing other precious metals
  - Other
- Waste and scrap of cast iron
  - Waste and scrap of alloy steel:
  - Of stainless steel
  - Other
- Waste and scrap of tinned iron or steel
- Other waste and scrap:
  - Turnings, shavings, chips, milling waste, sawdust, filings, trimmings and stampings, whether or not in bundles
  - Other
- Remelting scrap ingots
- Copper waste and scrap
- Nickel waste and scrap
- Aluminium waste and scrap
- Lead waste and scrap
- Zinc waste and scrap
- Tin waste and scrap
- Tungsten (wolfram) waste and scrap
- Molybdenum waste and scrap
- Tantalum waste and scrap
- Magnesium waste and scrap
- Cobalt waste and scrap
- Bismuth and articles thereof, including waste and scrap
- Cadmium waste and scrap
- Titanium waste and scrap
- Zirconium waste and scrap
- Antimony waste and scrap
- Manganese and articles thereof, including waste and scrap
- Beryllium waste and scrap
- Chromium waste and scrap
- Germanium
- Vanadium
- Thallium waste and scrap
- Other unwrought; waste and scrap; powders
- Cermets and articles thereof, including waste and scrap

Sources: DENR; "Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan for an Economic Partnership," Annex 1: Philippine Schedule

EZ2
13 1

SIX DIGIT
5 2 2 6 3 0

SUERTRES
All in exact order
Evening 9 8 1
Mid-Day 9 8 8

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
6 13 17 38 41 42
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THUMBS UP for nine Army Scout Rangers who were released for lack of evidence INQUIRER PHOTO/ REM ZAMORA

9 soldiers in Oakwood coup freed for lack of evidence

By Dona Pazzibugan

NINE SOLDIERS DETAINED for their alleged involvement in a failed mutiny against President Macapagal-Arroyo in July 2003 were freed yesterday due to insufficient evidence.

The nine, all members of the Army's elite First Scout Rangers, were released on the recommendation of a special adjudication board that concluded there was not enough evidence to show they took part in the failed coup.

The freed soldiers—Sergeants Michael Llamas and Dante Bulawan; Corporals Ramon Pedregosa, Alberto Garde, Jonathan Calcada and Arnold Gregorio; and Privates First Class Ronnel Cabaltera, Marlon Cesar and Ian Matematico—will not be returned to their unit, said Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres.

They will undergo two to three months of "retraining and counseling" at the Military Police Battalion headquarters in Fort Bonifacio before being given field assignments, the Army said.

Never again

"Never again!" chanted some of the freed soldiers as they left their Custodial Management Unit detention quarters, carrying backpacks and personal effects, including straw mats and water bottles.

"We are overjoyed. We thank God we are free. Our time in jail is enough punishment. We will now return to the folds of government," said Llamas in Filipino.

Only Matematico was able to see his family who lived in Taguig. The families of the others live in the provinces. Matematico embraced his wife Evelyn and two children, aged 2 years and 4 months, both of whom were born while he was in jail.

About 300 rebel soldiers occupied the Oakwood Premier hotel in the Makati financial district in July 2003, demanding that the President step down

The uprising was quelled within 24 hours without bloodshed and most of the military participants were detained.

No apologies

Although the nine soldiers were not at the Oakwood when rebel junior officers, who styled themselves as the Magdalo group, took over the hotel and Ayala commercial center on July 27, 2003, they were later implicated, leading to their detention for three years.

Llamas said their commanding officer in Basilan, Lt. Jeffrey Caoguiran, had implicated them.

The military offered no apologies to the nine soldiers for detaining them for more than three years.

"I don't think the Army needs to apologize. We followed the legal processes," said Torres.

"That's part of the military justice system. Their records will be cleared," added Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, the chief of the Armed Forces Public Information Office.

He said the nine continued to receive their salaries while in detention.

Of those arrested for the July 2003 mutiny, about 99 are still in detention while 184 have been freed after a plea bargain with the government.

It is believed some of the backers of the Oakwood mutiny were also behind a failed coup plot against the President last February.

Coup leaders

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the dismissed Scout Ranger commander, and 24 other Scout Ranger officers and 125 enlisted men are under investigation for possible court martial for the Feb. 24 failed coup.

Two enlisted soldiers will continue to stand trial for the July 2003 coup try.

AFP Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon has denied the appeal of Cpl. Jesus Molon Jr. and Pfc. Winston Iponia to be released.

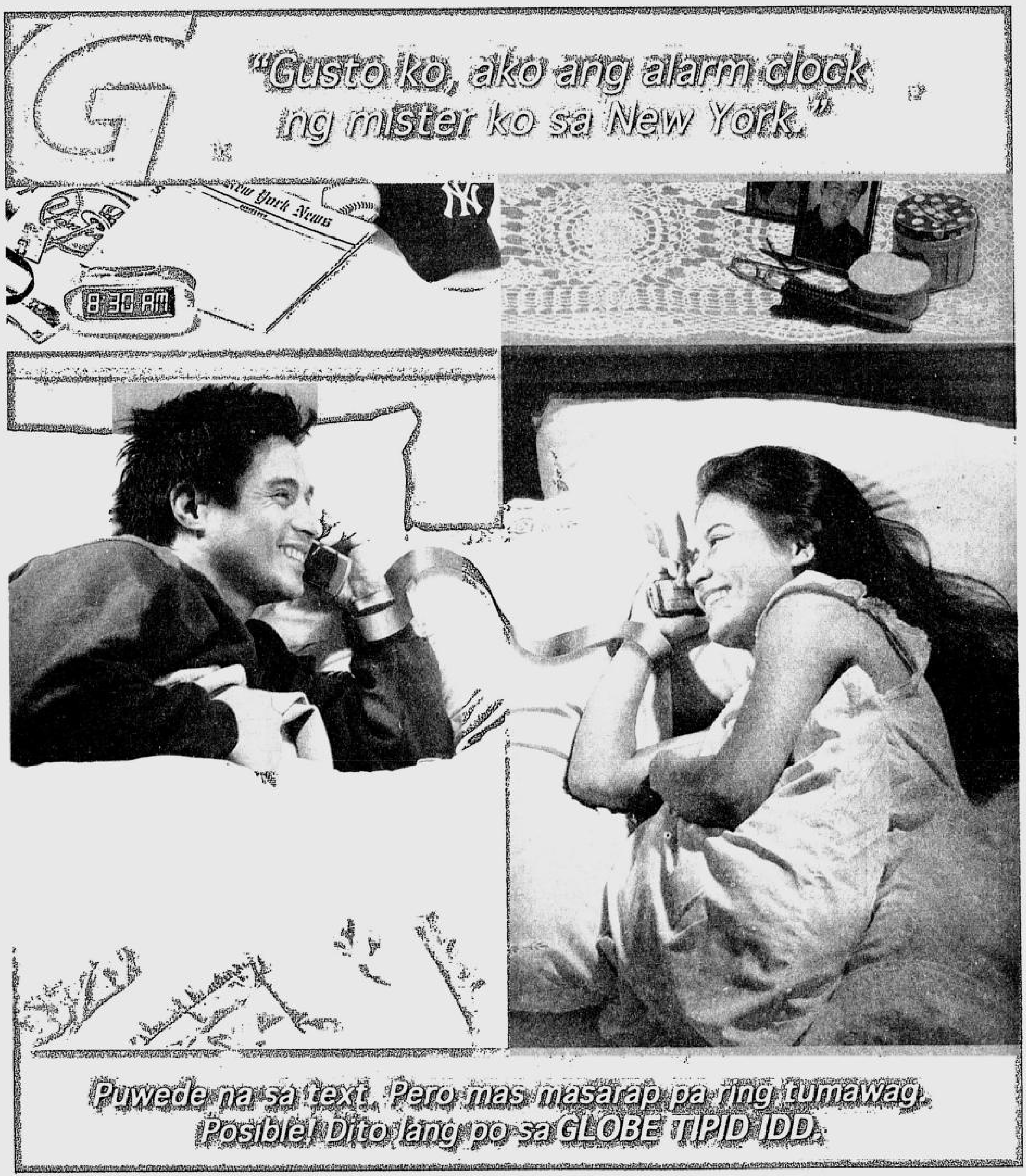
But they were allowed to avail of the same plea bargain terms given to the 184 enlisted men who were freed in May 2005.

The two soldiers will stand trial along with 97 Magdalo rebel officers before a general court martial on charges of mutiny and failure to suppress mutiny.

Last Tuesday, military prosecutors said that AFP "higher authorities" had rejected as "unacceptable" the plea bargain offer that 59 of the rebel officers made in April.

Barring another postponement, five of six escaped Magdalo rebel officers who were recaptured last July will finally be arraigned today.

With a report from DJ Yap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New York News
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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'Binay employees have no BIR tax ID'

Workers use TIN to pay taxes, mayor's aide tells complaining ex-councilor

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

JUST A WEEK AFTER WINNING THE FIRST round against Malacañang, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay may have to step back into the ring.

Malacañang had ordered Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and 16 Makati councilors suspended for 90 days on the basis of former Makati Vice Mayor Bobby Brillante's complaint that the city maintained ghost employees in its payroll.

Binay, however, won a reprieve when the Court of Appeals granted his petition for a temporary restraining order.

Yesterday, Oscar Ibay, a former Makati councilor and Binay's rival in the 2004 mayoral race came out with what he said was proof that there were ghost employees in City Hall. Ibay, who had a falling out with Binay in 2003, showed media documents that allegedly proved that 80 percent of city hall employees have been working for the past eight years without a taxpayer identification number (TIN).

The documents, which Ibay said were given to him by "informants" at City Hall, showed there were 9,792 government employees in Makati without TINs in 2001; 7,597 in 2003 and 8,068 last year.

He added that the veracity of the fig-

BINAY/ A26

Moms plan to file raps vs hospital

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MOTHERS OF THREE OF SEVEN NEWborns who died at the Rizal Medical Center (RMC) due to neonatal sepsis or bacterial infection have gone to the Pasig City Police to file complaints against hospital officials.

Police said they were now holding an investigation to prepare for the possible filing of charges against RMC.

"We are already getting the statements of the mothers. Some of our operatives are already investigating the complaints," police investigation chief Senior Insp. Lorenzo Trajano told the INQUIRER.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III had declared the other day that there had been "some degree of negligence" on the part of the hospital in caring for its patients.

But a five-person team that had investigated the matter said the other day that the newborns had gotten the infection from their mothers and not from the hospital. Hospital authorities could not be reached for comment on the results of the probe.

"It seems they are protecting the hospital officials," said Janice de la Cruz, 23, one of the three mothers who filed a complaint against RMC, who lost her baby, Allisone, three days after she gave birth at the hospital.

In a phone interview, De la Cruz said no one from the hospital or from the health department had interviewed her about the incident. Trajano said they would study the findings of the Department of Health as part of their investigation.

Hospital records said of the 28 babies born at the hospital on Oct. 4, at least 12 babies developed neonatal sepsis or an infection in the blood. Six of the babies died on Oct. 6 while De la Cruz's daughter died on Oct. 7.

Support suit vs Pacquiao not quite over

By DJ Yap

THE LAWYER OF JOANNA ROSE BACOSA, the rumored girlfriend of Manny Pacquiao with whom she allegedly had a son, yesterday said he would probably appeal a court ruling dismissing the case his client had filed against the boxer.

"We still have 15 days to file a motion of reconsideration if Bacosa still wants to pursue the case," said Victor Rodriguez. "She has not been in touch with me since Pacquiao's fight (with Mexican Oscar Larios in July). She left me three cellular phone numbers but all of them were switched off," the lawyer added.

Bacosa had charged the boxing hero with violating the law protecting women and children, or Republic Act 9262, over his alleged refusal to provide financial support for their 2-year-old son.

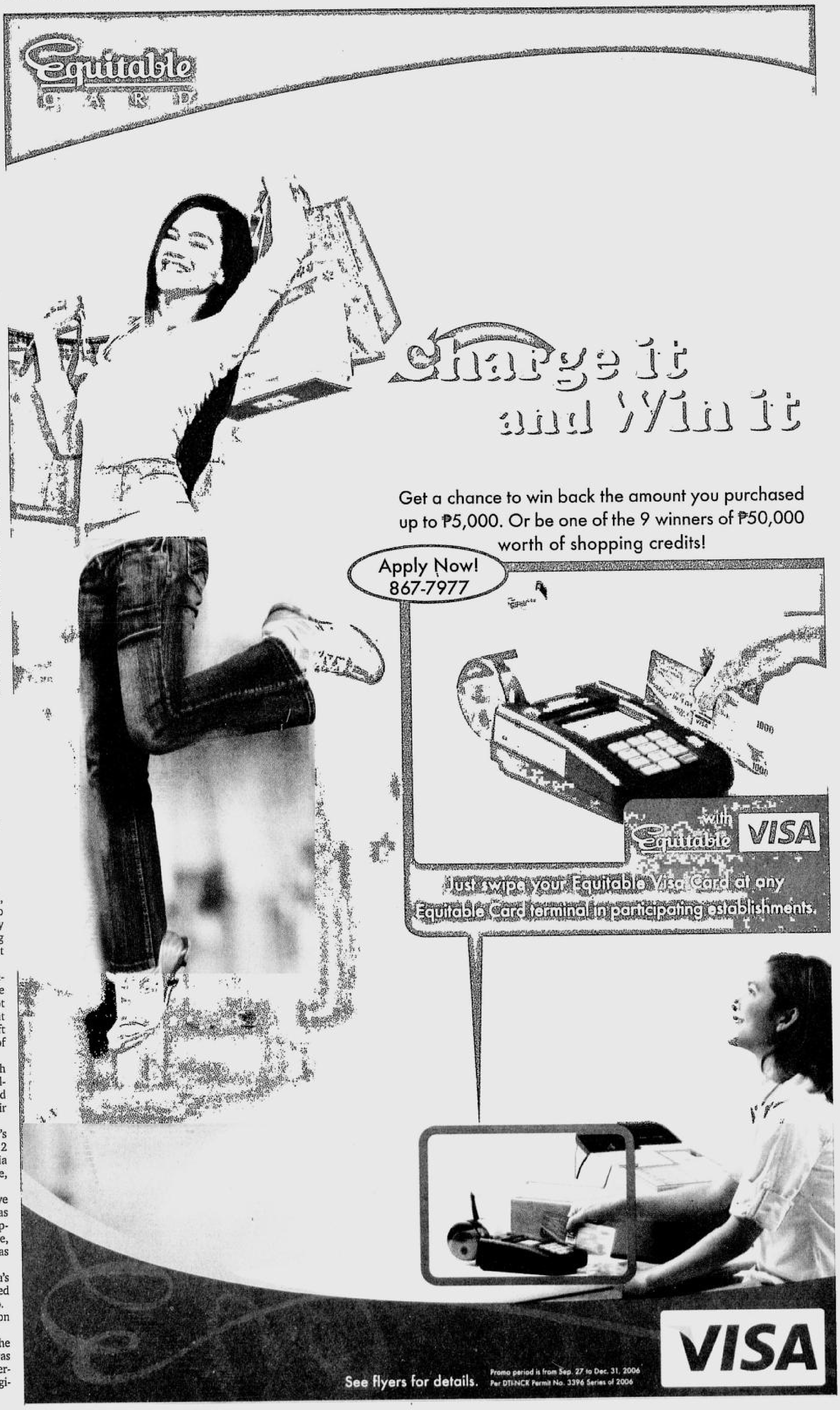
On Monday, the Quezon City prosecutor's office junked the complaint based on a May 2 resolution by then assistant prosecutor Maria Gracia Casaclang, for lack of probable cause, citing insufficient evidence.

Rodriguez said he was still willing to give Bacosa the benefit of the doubt. "She still has 15 days from yesterday (Monday) to approach me. But if she does not come to me, then I have reason to believe that she has reached a compromise," he added.

Asked to elaborate, Rodriguez said Bacosa's decision to cut ties with him might have resulted from an out-of-court settlement with Pacquiao.

He said he respected Casaclang's resolution but did not "subscribe to it."

"It seemed there was already a trial and she was already evaluating the evidence. She was talking about paternity, but this was not a paternity suit at all. She did not touch on psychological and economic abuse," Rodriguez added.



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'Wowowee' victims dogged by money, court woes

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MONTHS AFTER TV NETWORK ABS-CBN announced that it had started a foundation to help the families of the 71 persons who were killed during the stampede at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, some of the victims' kin said they are still waiting for assistance.

"We have not received any help from (ABS-CBN). We are already having a very difficult time," Rizaldy Javierto, whose mother Virginia and sister Josephine were among those killed last Feb. 4, told the INQUIRER.

He explained that when their mother was alive, she used to receive a monthly pension of almost P60,000 as her husband had served in the US Army. Virginia, who was 81 when she was killed in the stampede, used the money to help her children, most of whom already have families of their own.

Her 63-year-old daughter Estrellita, who survived the stampede, added that part of the monthly pension was spent on the medicines of her 35-year-old brother, who is mentally ill.

"Where are we going to get the money now?" Estrellita lamented, adding that the electricity in their mother's house had been disconnected after they failed to pay the bill.

Rizaldy, Estrellita and their sister Gilda the other day attended a prayer meeting for stampede victims and survivors in front of the gate where the 71 persons, mostly elderly women who had lined up for days to watch the anniversary show of "Wowowee," were pinned to death.

But the Javiertos said they were willing to forget about filing charges against ABS-CBN as long as the network would extend support to the family.

"We are only after some financial assistance. We really need some help," Estrellita also told reporters.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER the other day, Maloli Espinosa, the TV network's vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, said that ABS-CBN "sympathizes with the victims and continues to do all it can to help them through the 71 Dream Foundation, set up to address the needs of families with legitimate concerns."

The Javiertos, meanwhile, are fighting another court battle, this time, to claim the P49,000 in cash rescuers had recovered from one of the victims after the stampede on Feb. 4.

The money was returned to the family of Aurora Soriano, 56. But the Javiertos said the money belonged to their mother.

Police had declared the money should have been returned to the Javiertos, citing evidence like pictures taken during the tragedy, the dresses the victims were wearing when they were killed and a video footage from a bank showing that Javierto and her daughters had withdrawn P50,000 before going to the noontime show.

The members of the Soriano family earlier said they would return half of the amount, because they had already spent part of it. But they later said they would just face the Javiertos in court.

Rizaldy said they had already filed charges against the Sorianos.

DID YOU KNOW

PADRE Faura Street in Manila, on which the buildings of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice can be found, was named after Federico Faura, a Jesuit priest who invented in 1886 a barometer indicating the proximity and intensity of typhoons. Faura helped establish the Manila Observatory, forerunner of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), which issued weather bulletins that were also used by foreign observatories.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

METRO BRIEFS

Fake shirts

OPERATIVES of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday reported the seizure of P4.5 million worth of fake Lacoste brand shirts in separate raids in the cities of Las Piñas and Parañaque last week. Raided were the houses of Albert and Elsa Jimenez on Cristobal St., Gatchalian Subdivision in Las Piñas and Roy and Rosaria Maria Villasor in Batac-Tuazon Village, BF Homes, Parañaque City.

Margaux C. Ortiz

New chief

SUPT. Rufino Druja has been appointed officer in charge of the Northern Police District following the appointment of Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil as police director for Region 1. Druja said yesterday that he would continue Bataoil's projects and implement his directives. "I am just a caretaker, but I will ensure that peace and order in the district would be maintained." Druja said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Rallies on hold at PCU campus

By Tina G. Santos

OSCAR Suarez: A weeklong reprieve

EDWIN BACASMAS

RALLIES DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION of Philippine Christian University (PCU) president Oscar Suarez have stopped, for now.

Ellen Naluz, spokesperson of the Alliance of PCU Unions, said they have decided not to hold protest actions this week in deference to students who will be taking their final exams.

"We don't want the students to be affected by this incident. We want to make sure that they're focused during their finals. But it doesn't mean that we're giving up our fight. We won't stop until Dr. Suarez steps down from his post," Naluz said, adding that they will resume their activities next week.

Some members of the PCU faculty and staff had staged a walkout last week to protest Suarez's involvement in the allegedly illegal disbursement of university funds. The official, however, has denied the accusations against him.

"I'm not resigning because I have a commitment to put the school in order. I'm staying put," Suarez said.

Binay ...

From page A25

ures were attested to by Elizabeth Sacramento, head of the document processing section and Roberto Baquiran, revenue district officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue District Office.

But Makati Human Resource Development Office chief Vissia Marie Aldon countered that the city's more than 7,000 employees, including those working at City Hall, had a TIN.

"All of them have a TIN because they cannot escape from paying taxes which are automatically deducted from their salaries," Aldon said.

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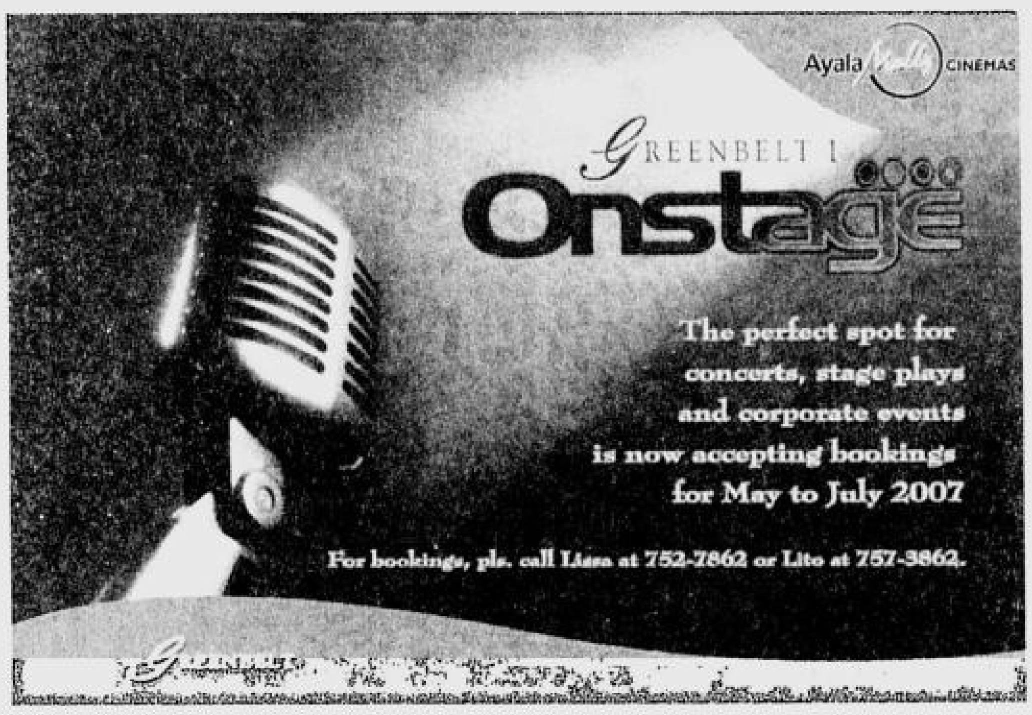

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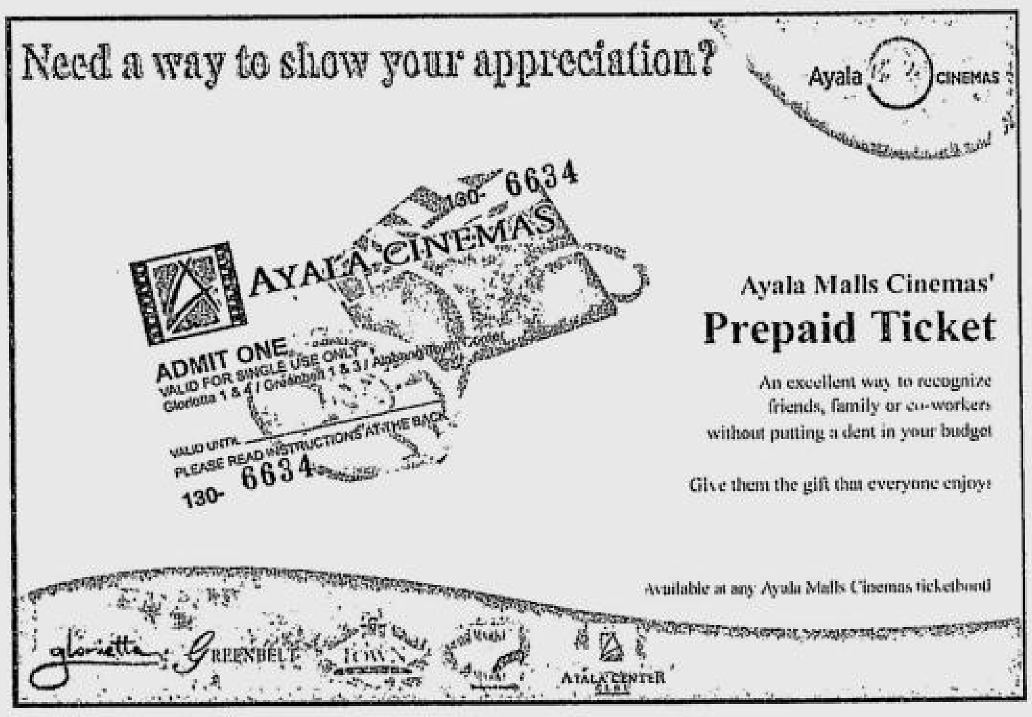

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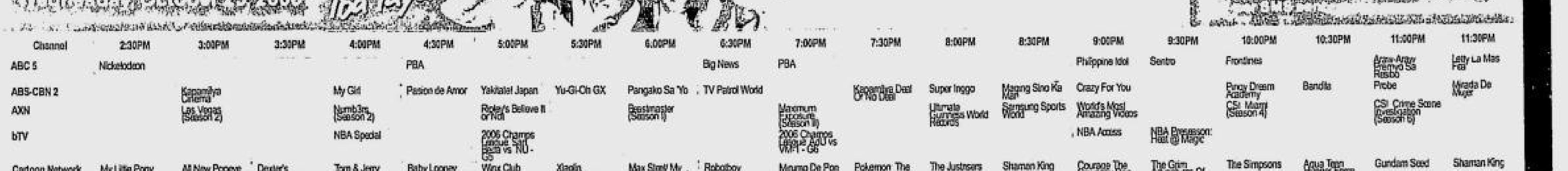
INQUIRER TV GUIDE Wednesday, October 25, 2006



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				PBA				Big News	PBA				Philippine Idol	Sentro	Frontlines		Arya-Arya Premyo Sa Rasbo	Letty La Mas Fea
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		My Girl	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Probe	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Las Vegas (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Beastmaster (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)	
bTV				NBA Special		2006 Champs League: San Beda vs. NU - G5				2006 Champs League ADU vs MIT - G6				NBA Access	NBA Preseason: Heat @ Magic				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy	Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Halimaw Sa Banga				Isa Pa Lamang				Lisensyadong Kamao			Persona	[illegible] (9:15PM)				Babaeng Putik	
Cinemax		The Last Samurai					Firefox (5:40PM)					The School Of Rock			The Opposite Of Sex (9:45PM)				Wolfen
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Bones		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Heist				Law Firm	
Discovery Channel	Mean Machines	Zero Hour		American Chopper		Shark Week		Kings Of Construction		Serengeti Today		Hour China		NILE: Search For The Source		A Haunting		Blueprint For Disaster	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Cheerleading		X Games 11 Classic - Moto X		In The Driver's Seat	MLB World Series Game3							Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		America's Next Top Model		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty and the Geek Season 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey 1 & 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	EWTN Presents	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Judging Amy		Murder 1/C [illegible] Poor Tom Is Cold			
HBO		The Cable Guy			Batman & Robin (4:45 PM)					Assassins (6:50 PM)				Hitch				Executive Decision	
Hero TV	Gundam Seed	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics: Arts		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Good Take	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		Raw				Cheat	Filter	Afterburn		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Chappelle's Show	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Food Network Special		Intimate Portrait		Style Star	Fashion Police	Martha		Isaac		Fine Living Special	
MTV Philippines		MTV Screen	VH1 & Self Magz Top 10 Rock Bodies		Homewrecker	Score	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	MTV Screen	TRL		Yo Momma	Score	MTV Live	Homecoming	VH1 Storytellers: Coldplay	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Take 5	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Journey Into Amazonia		Planet Wild	Amazing Moments	Top 5		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Outbreak Investigation		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp			Dyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		The Final Say: ChaCha		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubuyag		News Bati (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bukas Luluhod Ang Mga Tala				Hacienda				Fight Night 9				Eagle Squad				Mana-Mana Tiba-Tiba
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Iron Chef		Summerland		Extreme Makeover Home Edition		Newswatch Now	Cerge For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				Fulltilt Poker		Subway 500 Highlights		Billiards: US 9 Ball		Sagupaan	Rookie Manual	ECW		Undisputed		Sportsdesk		NFL Game	
Star Movies		Coyote Ugly (3:15 PM)				Death To The Supermodels			The Ticket	Flatliners				Blood Of The Templars (Part 1)			Blood Of The Templars (Part 2) (10:40PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Ed		Grey's Anatomy		NCIS		Seinfeld	Ed
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	CSI	Las Vegas (8:15 PM)		It's A Guy Thing		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		Men's Room

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Taliban threatens to attack Europe, step up Afghan raids

DUBAI—THE TALIBAN ON MONday vowed to intensify raids against foreign troops in Afghanistan and also said it would attack civilians in Europe, in two separate threats made on television and the Internet.

Fugitive leader Mullah Mohammad Omar pledged to step up incursions against foreign forces in Afghanistan, in an Internet message marking the start of the Muslim Eid al-Fitr feast.

"The coming months will witness an intensification and better organization of the resistance against the crusaders (in Afghanistan)," Omar wrote in the message, the authenticity of which could not be independently confirmed.

Initially written in Pashtun, it was posted in Arabic, with parts translated into English, on the official website of the "Islamic emirate of Afghanistan." "I ask the mujahedeen to intensify operations against the crusaders ... I congratulate the mujahedeen in Iraq for their powerful resistance and urge them to continue on this path," Omar said.

Around 40,000 foreign troops, including more than 30,000 with a NATO-led force, are in Afghanistan to help root out remnants of the Taliban militia, which was ousted from power by a US-led invasion in late 2001.

The militants have stepped up their operations this year, fighting some of the heaviest battles with Afghan and foreign troops since they were driven from power.

Militants are also planning to launch deadly attacks on civilians in Europe in revenge for the 2001 invasion, a Taliban commander said on British television.

Mullah Mohammed Amin said on Sky News that resurgent militants had built up stockpiles of weapons and were bent on revenge against "the foreign invaders." The Taliban now wanted to export terror to the West, he said.

"It's acceptable to kill ordinary people in Europe because these are the people who have voted in the government," he said in an interview conducted in the Pakistani border region.

"The ordinary people of these countries are behind this—so we will not spare them. We will kill them and laugh over them like they are killing us and laughing at us." Amin said the Taliban had been inspired by tactics used by insurgents in Iraq, namely remote-controlled bombs, landmines and suicide bombers.

"They are our best tactic," he said.

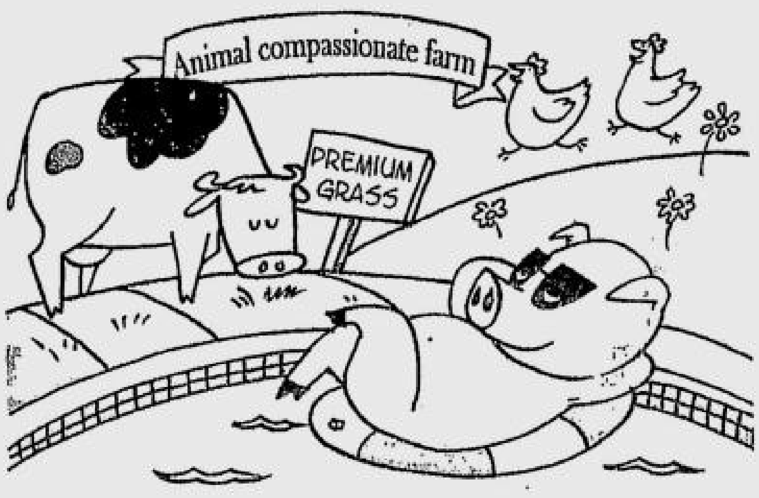
Fighters were sheltering in Pakistan and were also being helped by sympathetic local people, he told the British television channel.

In his Internet message, Mullah Omar also vowed to bring Afghan President Hamid Karzai before an Islamic tribunal.

"I also announce to you that the Crusaders' valet (Karzai) and his colleagues are in the process of looking for a way to escape ... We are going to bring them before an Islamic tribunal," the Taliban leader wrote.

A purported spokesperson for Omar said on Oct. 7 that the militant chief was alive and leading the antigovernment insurgency from inside Afghanistan.

"Mullah Omar has been in Afghanistan and still is in Afghanistan and will remain here to lead the jihad (holy war) against the American troops," said a man claiming to be Taliban spokesperson Abdul-Hai Mutmaen. *AFP*



Meat labels hope to lure the sensitive carnivore

MANY COWS, PIGS AND CHICKens will soon be living cushier lives.

But in the end, they will still be headed for the dinner plate.

Whole Foods Market is preparing to roll out a line of meat that will carry labels saying "animal compassionate," indicating the animals were raised in a humane manner until they were slaughtered.

The grocery chain's decision to use the new labels comes as a growing number of retailers are making similar animal-welfare claims on meat and egg packaging, including "free farmed," "certified humane," "cage free" and "free range."

While the animal-welfare labels are proliferating, it remains unclear whether they appeal to anyone other than a niche market of animal lovers, particularly since the meat and eggs are roughly up to twice as expensive as products that do not carry the labels.

Mike Jones, a Louisburg, N.C., farmer who is raising "animal compassionate" pigs for Whole Foods, is convinced the new label will find buyers among "recyclers" and "foodies."

"The recyclers will buy it because they love this kind of agriculture," Jones said. "The foodies will buy it because they love the taste."

The increase in animal-welfare labels has been driven in part by animal-rights organizations. The Humane Society of the United States, for instance, has been working for nearly two years to end the practice of confining hens to cages. But, like organic and natural labels, the animal-welfare claims are also a way for food retailers to offer something their competitors do not.

"You are always trying to find a point of difference," said Ted Taft, managing director of Meridian Consulting Group. "You could argue that chicken is chicken. But if you get a chicken that is free range, consumers will say, 'I like that.'"

Taft added that buyers said "'It makes me feel good.' It's something to give it an edge in a tie-breaker."

It is hard to determine how many meat packages carry animal-welfare labels. There is general agreement, though, that it remains a small niche that will probably expand substantially when Whole Foods begins offering its animal-compassionate line in its 186 stores. Whole Foods has been working on its animal compassionate standards for three years and plans to unveil its logo in a few months, as soon as auditing guidelines are established to make sure farmers are following the rules. The initiative was started by Whole Foods' chief executive officer, John P. Mackey, a vegan who has been increasingly outspoken on animal-rights issues. *New York Times News Service*

WORLDBRIEFS

Strong quake hits Japan

TOKYO—A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck close to islands in southern Japan Tuesday, but there were no concerns over tsunamis and no immediate reports of damage or casualties, officials said. The tremor struck at 6:18 a.m. with its epicenter 800 km south of Tokyo, close to the Izu islands, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. "You don't have to worry about disastrous tsunamis that could lead to damages, as certain time has passed since the quake," an official at the agency told AFP about two hours after the tremor. He added that the agency will keep monitoring the sea level and that "some sea-level changes may be observed due to this quake." On Friday two strong undersea earthquakes struck Japan but with no reports of damages of casualties. *AFP*

Suspected Bali bombers freed after

JAKARTA—Two Islamic militants jailed for their roles in helping key bombers in the 2002 Bali blasts, walked free from prison after receiving sentence cuts to mark an Islamic holiday, officials said Tuesday. Indonesia typically grants sentence cuts of up to six months twice a year—one to mark Independence Day and another to mark major religious holidays, handed out according to a convict's faith. Sirojul Munir, who was serving a five-year term in the East Kalimantan capital of Balikpapan for harboring key bomber Ali Imron, walked free from jail following Eid prayers Tuesday after receiving a one-month reduction, a prison official said. *AFP*

Enron Ceo gets 24 years

HOUSTON—Former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling was sentenced Monday to more than 24 years in prison for fraud and conspiracy in one of the biggest corporate scandals in US history. "Crimes of this magnitude deserve severe punishment," Judge Sim Lake said when announcing the 292-month sentence. Skilling, 52, who had faced a maximum of 185 years in jail, showed little emotion as his sentence was handed down. A jury convicted him in May of 19 counts of conspiracy, fraud and insider trading. The disgraced former CEO will also forfeit about $45 million in assets, including his home. *AFP*

18 die in Panama bus explosion

PANAMA CITY—An explosion on a city bus killed 18 passengers and burned another 18 in downtown Panama City on Monday, interior minister Olga Golcher said. "There was an explosion and everything filled with smoke," said survivor Rosa Marin. "Those who could do so jumped out the windows," she said. Fire chief Mario Puertas said the bus had no emergency exit. Santo Tomas hospital director Gerardo Victoria said 12 of the burn victims were adults and six were children. *AFP*

Dissidents seize presidential palace

WELLINGTON—French Polynesia's presidential palace in Papeete has been seized by members of the former Intervention Group of Polynesia (GIP), Radio New Zealand reported Tuesday. The GIP and members of the striking O Oe Te Rima Union have also seized several other buildings in the Tahitian city and demanded President Oscar Temaru return from the Pacific Islands Forum in Fiji. The dissidents and strikers reportedly drove vehicles into the palace grounds late on Monday, after lifting road blocks they set up two weeks ago in the Tahitian capital, protesting the high cost of living in the French Pacific territory. *AFP*

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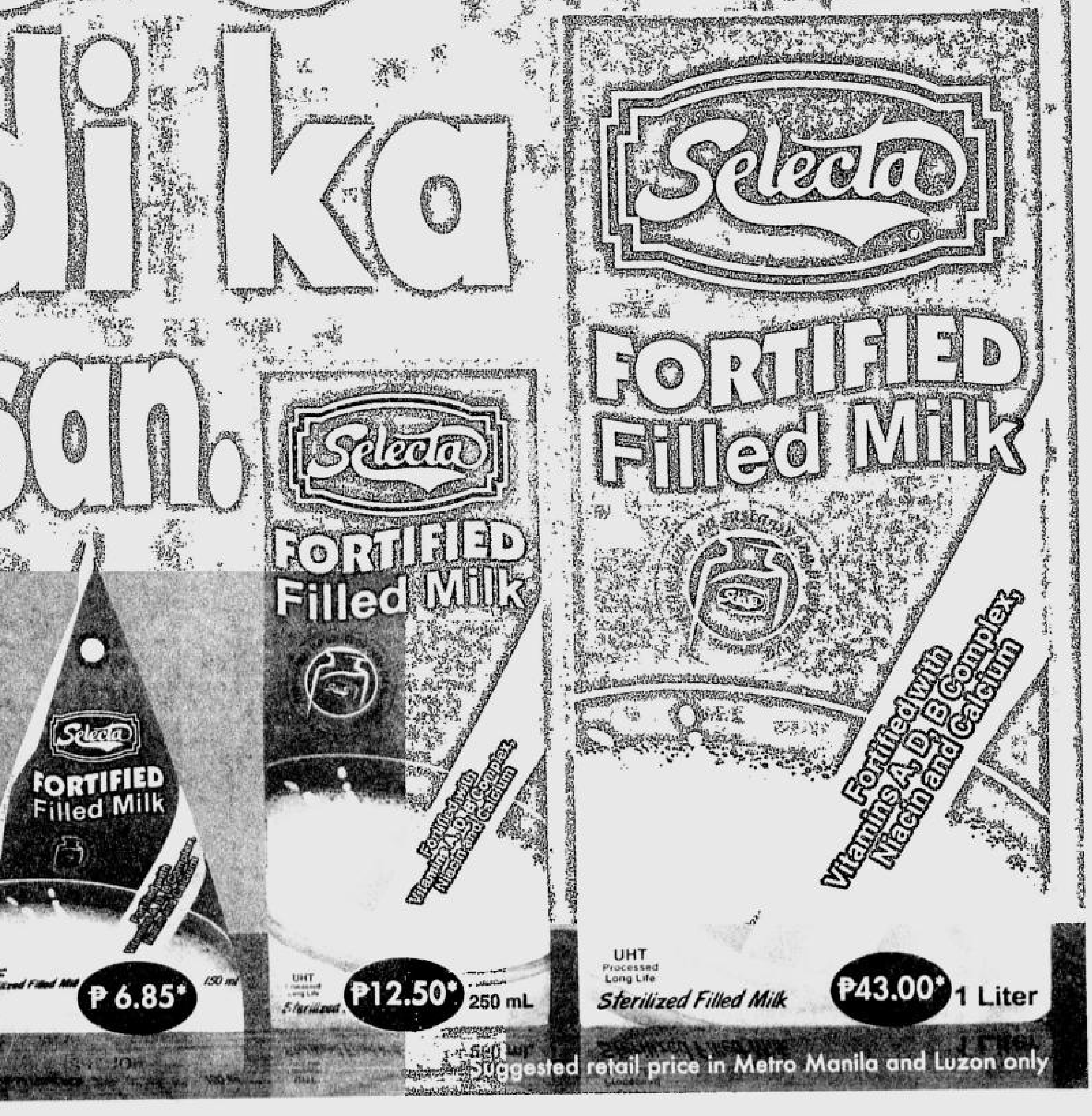

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The WORLD
Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Riots grip Hungary as it marks uprising

BUDAPEST—POLICE FIRED RUBBER BULLETS and tear gas at mostly far-right protestors on the streets of Budapest on Monday as commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising against Soviet rule descended into chaos.

Backed by water cannons and firing volleys of tear gas, police early on Tuesday used trucks to run over barricades and clear a last group of several hundred protestors from the Elizabeth bridge over the river Danube.

Some 100 protestors were detained and 128 people were injured in clashes between antigovernment demonstrators and police on Monday and early Tuesday, authorities said.

"There were 128 injuries, six to eight of which were serious," an emergency services spokesperson told AFP.

Police spokesperson Tibor Jarmy told state-run news agency MTI that "around 100" had been detained in the riots, but he could not give an exact figure. He said 19 policemen had been injured.

Many of those who battled police late Monday were far-right extremists, many of them waving the red-and-white striped flag used by Hungary's pro-Nazi government during World War II.

Earlier police used water cannons to disperse thousands of demonstrators across the city, initially to keep them from reaching the parliament where Hungarian and foreign dignitaries held ceremonies to mark the 1956 uprising.

Antigovernment demonstrators had even managed to hijack a Soviet tank, on display for the anniversary of the uprising, and drove it about a hundred meters before police ousted them and recovered the vehicle.

"An aggressive minority is terrorizing us. We have to defend the country," Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany told public television after a meeting of the national security cabinet Monday evening.

The violence had political undertones.

The main opposition right-wing Fidesz party, which has sought to compare Gyurcsany to the former Soviet oppressors, boycotted the official ceremonies led by the Socialist government.

That boycott, combined with the riots, torpedoed efforts to put on a show of national unity half a century after the failed revolt that sealed Hungary's fate as a Soviet satellite state until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

Many of those battling police late Monday were far-right extremists, with many waving the red-and-white striped flag used by Hungary's pro-Nazi government during World War II.

There were fears that the riots could bring a return of the chaos triggered by a leaked recording in mid-September in which Gyurcsany said he had lied to voters about the economy to win reelection in April.

Those protests, which lasted more than one month, degenerated into riots, leaving hundreds injured.

Monday's violence, which also saw police on horseback charging protestors, left over 100 injured, the emergency services said. Police said 40 people were arrested.

Fidesz leader Viktor Orban, a former prime minister, told another commemoration, attended by tens of thousands of his supporters, that "an entire country has turned against this illegitimate government." His party went ahead with its boycott despite an appeal by Hungary's president to mark the uprising as one.

But unity appeared more elusive than ever before in the post-communist era, despite the legacy of the uprising in which a 10-million-strong nation came together in a mass upheaval against Stalinist oppression.

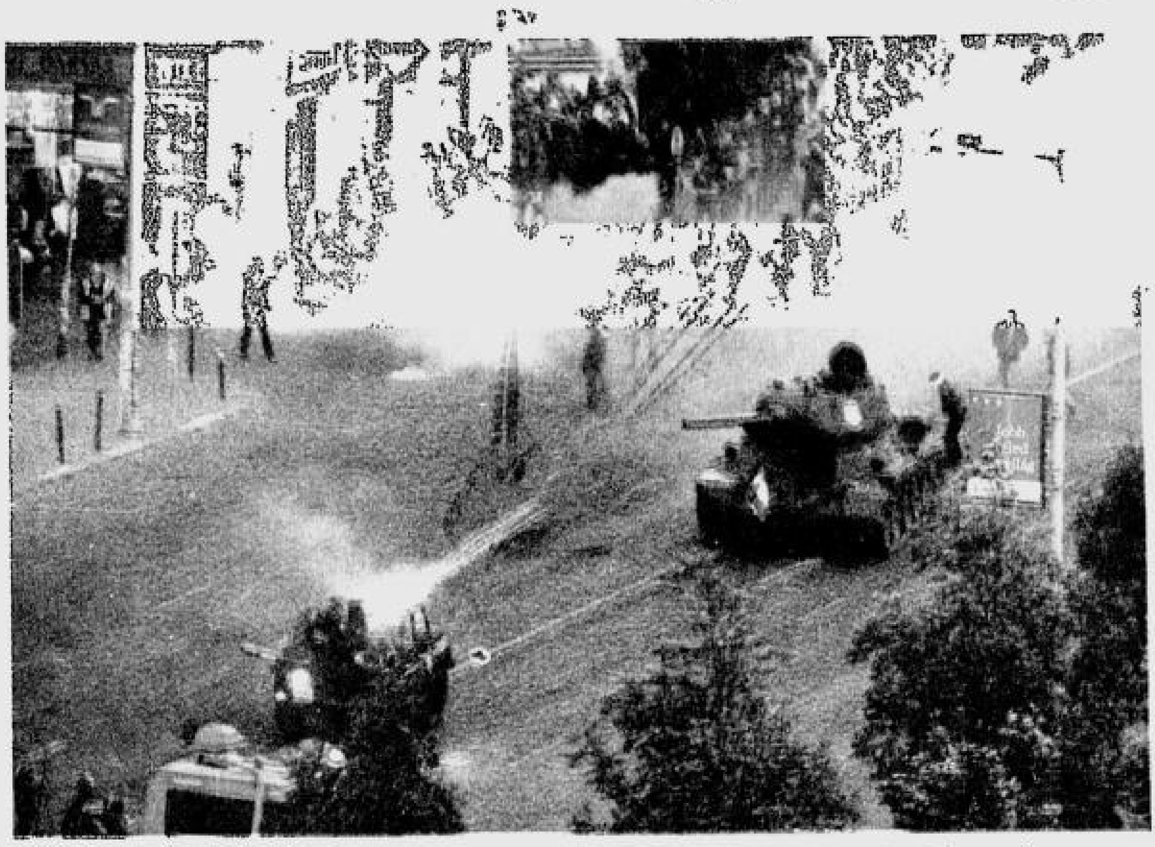
The uprising, which started out as a peaceful student protest on Oct. 23, 1956, turned into armed resistance across Hungary.

Youngsters, dubbed freedom fighters, used guns and petrol bombs in fierce street battles against Soviet tanks sent to put down the protests.

The revolt was crushed after two weeks, leaving 2,800 Hungarians dead and 12,000 wounded. Some 200,000 people fled to the capitalist West in its wake.

Gyurcsany said Monday that politicians should not confuse current political differences with the uprising.

"1956 was about the fight for freedom, while 2006 is about the order of freedom and democracy ... The 1956 revolution was replaced by the debates of a democracy," he told parliament. *AFP*



A WWII Soviet T-34 tank seized by protesters during clashes stops before riot police firing to disperse demonstrators on Oct. 23 in central Budapest, as Hungary marks the anniversary of the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising. AFP

No second nuke test, Nokor leader assures China

BEIJING—NORTH KOREAN LEADER Kim Jong-Il told Chinese officials that Pyongyang is not planning a second atom bomb test but will only return to talks under conditions, China's foreign ministry said Tuesday.

A spokesperson also said that Kim, contrary to some reports, did not apologize for his nation's first ever nuclear weapons test Oct. 9 in a meeting with a top-level Chinese delegation in Pyongyang last week.

The test triggered global outrage and led to sweeping UN sanctions against his impoverished Stalinist regime.

Tuesday's comments by foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao are the most specific account yet from Beijing of Kim's face-to-face meeting last Thursday with Chinese presidential envoy, Tang Jiaxuan.

"He expressed that North Korea does not have a plan for a second nuclear test," Liu told reporters.

"But if others put further pressure or unfair pressure (on the country), then North Korea may possibly take further measures." Tang's meeting with Kim was held as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was on a regional tour of Japan, South Korea and China pushing for strict and effective enforcement of the UN sanctions.

It was the first encounter between the North Korean leader and any foreign official since the regime stunned the world with its Oct. 9 test.

Liu denied a South Korean report that Kim had expressed regret at the test. "I have not heard of Kim Jong-Il apologizing," he said.

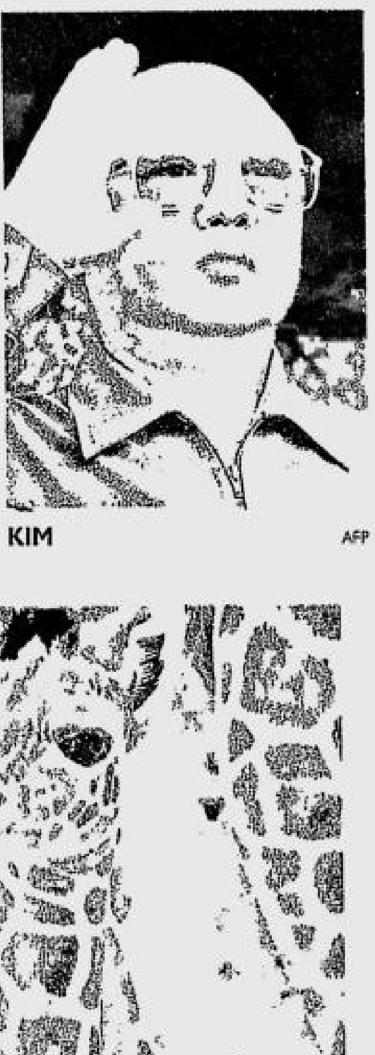
South Korean newspaper, the Chosun Ilbo, quoting diplomatic sources, Friday reported that Kim had "conveyed his sorry feelings" for the blast.

Liu said Kim had also reiterated his stance that Pyonygang would not return to talks on its nuclear ambitions until the United States lifts key financial sanctions for alleged money-laundering and counterfeiting.

"They expressed to us their willingness to return to the six-party talks but there are certain conditions," spokesperson Liu Jianchao said.

"They are willing to return, but these questions, including financial sanctions, need to be solved." Returning to the talks is a key plank of the UN Security Council resolution imposed against North Korea for conducting its nuclear test.

The Chinese foreign ministry's account tallies with that given Monday by Japan's former vice foreign minister Ichiro Aisawa, who spoke to Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei. *AFP*



KIM AFP

Hong Kong detains Nokor ship

HONG KONG—HONG KONG HAS detained a North Korean ship for safety violations, days after the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Pyongyang.

The 2,035-ton cargo ship, Kang Nam I, arrived in the former British colony on Sunday from Shanghai and was due to head for Taiwan with a load of scrap metal on Tuesday, the South China Morning Post reported.

The ship was detained on Monday after a Marine Department inspection turned up 25 faults—including 12 considered detainable under Port State Control regulations—ranging from faulty navigational, fire fighting and life safety equipment to obsolete nautical charts, the newspaper said.

Marine department officials declined to comment, and a government spokesperson said she had no information.

An official at the North Korean consulate in Hong Kong confirmed the ship's detention.

"We are working on this issue. We are doing the necessary procedures," said the man who declined to give his name or further details.

South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper quoted a source in Hong Kong as saying Assistant US Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who visited Hong Kong at the weekend, passed on intelligence about the ship and asked for it to be searched.

Hill is the chief US envoy for North Korean affairs.

A US consulate spokesperson, however, said Hill had been in town simply for "routine consultations" with consulate staff and "wasn't making any diplomatic presentations." *Reuters*

MOTHER AND CALF. Baby giraffe calf Imara stands at Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Oct. 23. Imara and her mother will rejoin their herd at Disney's Animal Kingdom savannah in the next few weeks. REUTERS

Thai junta adviser named speaker

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S MILITARY-appointed parliament on Tuesday elected the ruling junta's top legal adviser as its speaker.

Meechai Ruchupan won 70 percent of the vote held during the first session of the 242-seat National Legislative Assembly, which has little power to check the hand-picked government.

He has twice served as speaker of the senate and is widely seen as a front man for the leaders of the bloodless coup that ousted twice-elected prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra last month.

Considered Thailand's foremost legal expert, 68-year-old Meechai has acted as one of the junta's top advisers since the early hours of the putsch on Sept. 19.

He also has close ties with the top adviser to Thailand's revered king, Prem Tinsulanonda, who is believed to have played a central role in organizing the coup.

The choice of speaker came as little surprise in a chamber all of whose members were appointed by the military, and many of whom have links to Prem. It highlights how little independence the assembly is allowed.

"It's clear that the junta was behind the selection. The junta turned deaf ears to the voices of people who oppose Meechai as the assembly's new president, and this will turn people against junta," said Pibhop Dongchai of the Campaign for Popular Democracy pressure group.

"Meechai has a record of service in every government, especially governments formed by dictators," he added.

The Campaign for Popular Democracy was formed by many of the leaders of protests held earlier this year aimed at ousting Thaksin over corruption allegations.

"This is all about stabilizing their power with their own people, and not getting any opposition," Michael Nelson, a researcher at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, said of the parliament.

"This is not supposed to be an independent-minded body representing the people at large," he said.

Under a constitution imposed by the military three weeks ago, the assembly will act as a single-chamber parliament for a year but will have no powers to vote on government matters.

It can debate and question government policies, but not censure or impeach anyone in the administration.

That power lies with the junta, whose role was enshrined in their constitution. This established them as a Council for National Security that has ultimate authority in government. *AFP*

MEECHAI REUTERS

Iran expands nuclear centrifuge program

VIENNA—IRAN HAS LAUNCHED a second batch of centrifuges at its pilot nuclear fuel plant despite possible UN Security Council sanctions, diplomats said.

Tehran fired up the new cascade of 164 interconnected centrifuges, which can enrich uranium for either power plant or nuclear bomb fuel, earlier this month to go with an initial network of 164, they said.

But Iran appeared to be only testing the second cascade, without feeding "UF6" uranium gas into it, as it has generally done with the first cascade, which first yielded a tiny amount of home-grown enriched uranium in April.

A senior diplomat familiar with UN nuclear inspections in Iran said Tehran remained a long way from "industrial scale" capacity that would signal its emergence as a nuclear power, as North Korea showed on Oct. 9 by detonating an atomic device.

"The second cascade was brought on line earlier this month but they appear to be just running it empty. That is, vacuum-testing to assess durability," said the diplomat, close to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. *Reuters*

60 YEARS LATER

Buried bombs still frighten Germans

FRANKFURT—MORE THAN SIX decades after the end of World War II, Germans still routinely come across unexploded bombs beneath farmers' fields or city streets. Lately, there has been a skein of such dangerous discoveries, one with deadly consequences.

On Monday morning, a highway worker was killed when his cutting machine struck a World War II bomb beneath a busy autobahn southeast of Frankfurt. The explosion ripped apart the vehicle and damaged several passing cars, wounding four other workers and a motorist.

Also Monday, a weapons-removal squad defused a 500-pound bomb found next to a highway near Hanover, in the north. The police said it was a British aerial bomb, one of tens of thousands dropped on German roads, factories and cities during Allied raids.

On Saturday, 1,000 people were evacuated from a town east of Berlin after a bomb was discovered. And last week, 22,000 people were evacuated from a district in Hanover after three bombs were discovered near a house. It was the second largest evacuation for a disposal operation since the end of the war.

While the four incidents were unrelated, they reminded people that even though Germans have spent decades digging out rusty munitions, their landscape remains something of a minefield.

Allied warplanes dropped about two million tons of explosives on Germany, ranging from small firebombs to giant high-explosive bombs. There are also buried mortars, land mines and hand grenades, which often turn up during road construction or other major excavations.

The explosion Monday was particularly jarring because the bomb lay under one of Germany's busiest autobahns, which connects Frankfurt and Munich and is a main artery for trucks traveling to and from Eastern Europe. The highway, built in 1956, was closed for several hours. *New York Times News Service*

WHAT'S INSIDE

- West Negros five wins; Metro Manila hot /A30

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SPORTS

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Harry gets the boot

Boxing's brightest hope for Asiad gold sacked

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Inquirer Libre sports editor*

TAÑAMOR: Victim of "kulam"? ROMY HOMILLADA

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST PROSPECT FOR a boxing gold medal in the 15th Asian Games has been axed from the team.

Saying an example must be made to jolt recalcitrant athletes back to reason, the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines yesterday dropped multititled · light-flyweight Harry Tañamor from the roster of athletes seeing action in the Doha, Qatar, Asiad.

Tañamor, the 27-year-old Athens Olympian who bagged a silver medal in the last Asiad in Busan, South Korea, was punished for skipping training and tune-up fights here and overseas, as well as for discourtesy.

Abap president Manny T. Lopez said there is no "sacred cows" in the team when it comes to enforcing discipline.

Tañamor's replacement in the RP team for the Asiad, slated Dec. 1 to 15, will be named soon by the coaching staff headed by Pat Gaspi.

Among the names Lopez mentioned to fill Tañamor's slot are Godfrey Castro and Albert Pabila, who are both currently training in Baguio City.

"It pains the coaching staff and I to drop Harry because he has carried the flag proudly many times in the past," said Lopez. "But we found Harry to be almost impossible to deal with as we near the homestretch of our preparations for the Asian Games."

Tañamor's name remained on the list of athletes released by the Asian Games Task Force on Monday, but Lopez said he will submit the name of the fighter's replacement in the next few days.

Lopez admitted that the absence of Tañamor, a native of Zamboanga City but who now lives in Las Piñas City, will have a big impact on boxing's gold-medal drive.

"That's a price the Abap is willing to pay in order to stress a point that being a sportsman entails a lot of responsibility and honor," Lopez said.

Lopez said Tañamor skipped practices with the national team several times recently.

"Harry reasoned that he was sick during a week-long absence from training at the Rizal boxing gym," Lopez said. "The problem was he didn't even have the courtesy to inform the coaches about his sickness. His coaches and Abap officials have gone tired trying to call and locate him just to confirm what happened and find out what assistance the association could offer him."

The last straw came when Tañamor failed to show up at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last week and join the other members of the RP team on the flight to Tampere, Finland, for the annual Tammer Cup.

The INQUIRER learned that the Abap lost more than P100,000, the price of Tañamor's non-refundable and non-rebookable plane tickets.

The boxer also didn't make it to the Abap-TM Go for Gold boxing series that featured national boxers last Oct. 14 in Tondo, Manila.

'I was subjected to witchcraft'

WAS IT A PHANTOM PUNCH? OR WAS IT witchcraft that knocked the senses out of Harry Tañamor?

No matter how ludicrous his excuses were, the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines was willing to give the veteran internationalist the benefit of the doubt.

His apology and promise to reform would have been enough to make the Abap hierarchy reinstate him to the national team to Doha. But Tañamor didn't fulfill his side of the bargain.

On Oct. 18, Tañamor, pale and uneasy, came to see Abap secretary general Roger Fortaleza to make amends for his repeated absences from the national boxing team's training at the Abap Gym at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

"I would like to apologize to boss Manny (Lopez) for what happened," Tañamor told Fortaleza in Filipino. "I am willing to go back to Baguio City anytime to join the training camp."

Tañamor also had a ready answer when Fortaleza quizzed him on his unexplained absences.

"Somebody got envious and subjected me to witchcraft," Tañamor claimed. "But I have already regained my strength. *Nagpatawas na ako*"

Tañamor said he felt weak the day after training on Oct. 8, Sunday. "I didn't know what hit me," he said.

When asked why he wouldn't return calls, Tañamor said his cellphone was either low on battery or he had weak phone signal.

Instructed by Fortaleza to meet team psychologist Dr. Francis Sta. Maria in the afternoon, the bemedalled boxer gamely said yes. He never did.

Fortaleza told the INQUIRER a day later that Santamaria waited for two hours for Tañamor in vain. He also didn't rejoin the training camp in Baguio as promised.

Dennis Eroa

Phone Pals stake solo lead; Red Bull, SLR clash

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	4	1
Sta. Lucia	3	1
Red Bull	3	1
Ginebra	3	2
Coca-Cola	2	2
Welcoat	2	3
Air21	2	3
San Miguel	2	3
Purefoods	2	3
Alaska	1	4

ALL THAT PRESEASON hype about powerhouse teams going unbeaten has swirled down as the pace starts to really pick up in the PBA Philippine Cup.

And action is expected to get even more frenetic when Talk 'N Text stakes the solo lead against Purefoods in today's twinbill that also features top-tier teams Sta. Lucia and Red Bull at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals troop to battle at 4:30 p.m. against the Giants, who are hoping to string a streak of their own.

Sta. Lucia and Red Bull, on the other hand, are expected to provide a fiery show in the other game scheduled at 7:20 p.m. with both coming off contrasting fortunes that left them tied at 3-1.

The Bulls will be turning a page in their young franchise's history. Today's game marks the first time the Red Bull squad will be without prolific swingman Lordy Tugade, who was traded to an already star-laden San Miguel Beer roster in a celebrated trade just last week.

Sta. Lucia will be coming off its first loss, 100-96 against the Chunkee Giants in San Fernando City, a setback that left no team in the field unscathed.

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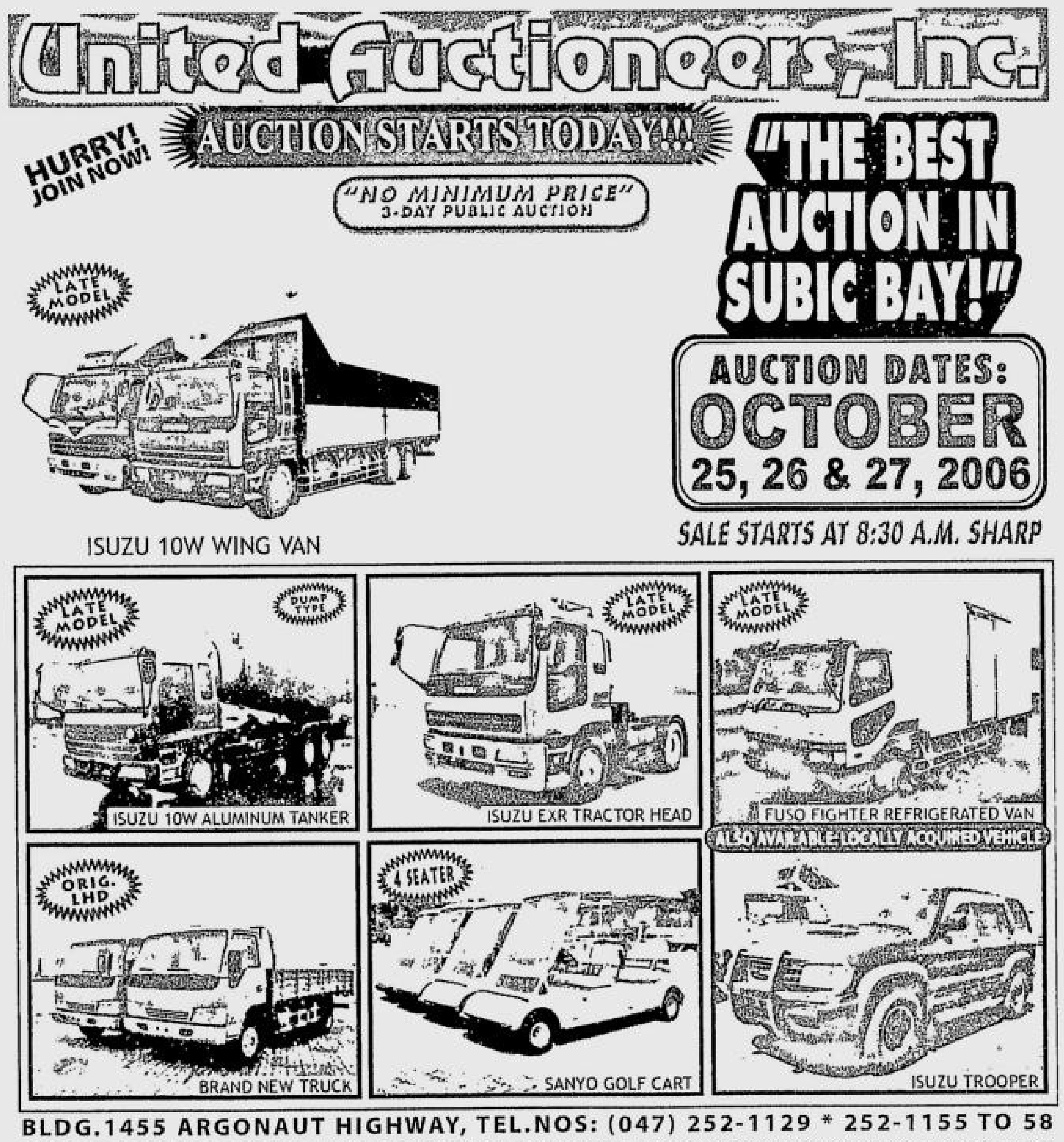
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UNIVERSITY GAMES

W. Negros five wins; MM hot

By Cedelf P. Tupas and Christian Irl Tan
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—DEFENDING BASKETBALL champion West Negros College picked up where it left off last year, rolling past University of Northern Philippines, 101-62, last night for its first win in the University Games at the St. La Salle Coliseum here.

On a day when teams from Metro Manila continued to make their presence felt on all fronts, the Mustangs, who lost three key players to UAAP teams this year, showed they still had enough firepower to foil the Vigan-based UNP's upset bid.

The St. Francis of Assisi Doves, whom the Mustangs routed to win the 2005 title, also revved up their campaign by scoring against University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, 84-49, their second victory in as many games.

Two-time winner Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals coasted to their second win in Bracket C, dumping Negros Oriental State, 81-58, while St. Louis University trounced Mindanao State, 88-81.

Over at the Natalio Velez Gym in Silay City, UAAP finalist Far Eastern Lady Tamaraws downed Holy Angel U, 81-58, even as Lyceum came through with a hard-earned 73-64 triumph.

In women's football, De La Salle University drew hat-tricks from Fiona Mackenzie and Samantha Bermudez for the second straight day in an 8-0 win over Silliman University. Santo Tomas and Ateneo played to a scoreless draw.

Over at the Paglaum pitch, "three-peat"-seeking University of St. La Salle opened up with a 5-2 win over University of San Carlos in men's football, while rival WNC routed SLU late Monday.

In a highly physical match, USC upset University of the Philippines, 2-0. The match ended with four players from UP sent off.

La Salle all but secured its place in the quarterfinals with a 17-0 massacre of UNP. Silliman won against SLU, 4-0, to keep its hopes alive.

UP suffered another blow in women's volleyball, falling to Holy Cross of Davao College, 19-25, 15-25, 18-25. Reigning champion FEU defeated USA-Iloilo, 25-12, 25-13, 25-13, while USLS beat University of the Cordilleras, 27-25, 25-12, 25-27, 25-23, for its second victory.

ANDY ALVAREZ

SANTO Tomas' Janis Patricia Perlas battles for possession with Ateneo's Kae Guerrero. The match ended in a scoreless standoff.

RFM backs UST Tigers; Magnolia enlists Ekwe

By Jasmine W. Payo

COLLEGIATE BATTLES WILL CROSS OVER to the Philippine Basketball League when the PBL Silver Cup tips off on Nov. 11.

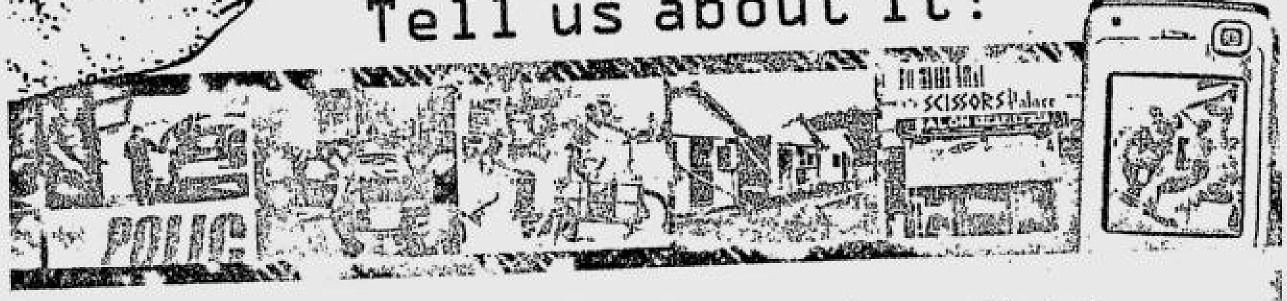
UAAP champion Santo Tomas Growling Tigers and NCAA titlist San Beda Red Lions are expected to be the top draws after the schools' recent tie-up with two giant food and beverage corporations.

"For the first time, we have the best of the UAAP and the best of the NCAA competing as teams," said PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad at the PSA Forum yesterday.

After talks with an international airline didn't push through, RFM Corporation came in to back UST's entry in the premier amateur league.

The Tigers, who are in a week-long vacation in Beijing, China and Hong Kong, will carry popcorn product Kettle Corn as its team brand.

San Beda agreed to a two-year pact with Magnolia Ice Cream of San Miguel Corp. Trinidad also announced the inclusion of San Beda import Sam Ekwe in the Magnolia roster.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INQUIRER

Sorry, a foul is never a good shot

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

IT WAS A FOUL—BAD SHOT IN PLAIN POOL parlance—committed on Efren "Bata" Reyes who has been made to wait INDEFINITELY for his hard-earned $500,000 top prize in the International Pool Tour World 8-Ball championship.

Despite the attendant hassle, Reyes continued to keep his cool and was, in fact, telling everybody not to worry.

Well, why not worry? We all have a stake in Reyes, a national treasure like Manny Pacquiao, whose great triumphs, like that last big one in Reno, Nevada, we never fail to celebrate.

You and I—everybody—mainly our poor, excited countrymen who always share in the jubilation, have every reason to feel alarmed.

The non-arrival of the dollars, which IPT promoters led by a certain Kevin Trudeau had made to instantly disappear (after Reyes had fondled them in glee), is a growing malaise, a foulness that should never be allowed in international pool and all parlors where fair play and decency are the gaming hallmarks.

* * *

Not to worry. Bata Reyes just came home empty-handed, with not a single cent of his prize money. Charge it to his inborn graciousness that Bata, despite the mess, has remained unruffled.

Not to worry. But there's an even bigger foulness here. The situation has been aggravated by IPT supporters who insisted everything was fair and normal.

There was no bad shot?

What could be fouler than offering a great prize—the biggest in pool history—which was not there, in the first place?

Well, Trudeau must be a real wonder worker, a trick shot star, for him to have a few local people assuring everybody that everything went on fine in the Reno World 8-Ball championship last month.

There's the ever-growing betrayal, but Trudeau continued to assure money would be forthcoming.

We could just pray he finally delivers. But we should also pray for God to save us from those who preach and try to make us believe Trudeau is a hero, and his fouls are all winning shots.

* * *

Damage has been done.

Rodney Morris, who won $150,000 as runner-up to Reyes in the IPT championship, has blamed his poor performance in the recent US 9-Ball Open in Florida on the non-payment of his prize by the IPT.

"I can't even concentrate," Morris was quoted as saying by the US Billiards Digest, a leading US pool magazine.

The authoritative publication also quoted other American players on their despair.

Anyway, here's the core of that US Billiards Digest report on the IPT mess:

"Worried members of the IPT have been watching their mail boxes and bank statements for the six weeks since IPT's World 8-Ball Open for their share of the event's $3 million prize money.

"Instead, they have received several e-mails from IPT founder Kevin Trudeau assuring them that the money will be coming 'very soon' as typically stated—just as soon as the tour finalizes its sale to Asian billionaire and gambling magnate Stanley Ho.

"The six-week delay has Internet chat room and billiard rumor mill buzzing, and has prompted IPT members to begin losing confidence in the fledgling multimillion dollar tour—especially with the lack of definitive information on the pay-off schedule.

"For sure, their credibility has been damaged. It will take a couple of years to repair the damage the controversy has done," said tour member Monica Webb.

* * *

Meanwhile, an insider in the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines (BSCP), not totally losing hope, swears "either the deal with Ho is confirmed within the week or it's all a bum steer."

At the same time, the BSCP man requests for stronger support for the World Pool Championship which the country hosts next month.

At least, this early, we can thank God for the WPC, won grandly by Bata Reyes in Cardiff in 1999.

Trudeau devotees may find this corny. But the Philippines appears already a big winner before the first tournament break at the Philippine International Convention Center.

* * *

(SALUTE: Farewell and a 21-gun salute to lawyer Tom del Castillo, an ultimate gentleman who lent dignity and decency to the legal profession. His mortal remains were buried yesterday. An ovation for newspaperman Alex Fernando, a true friend, who spent the best years of his career as a front-page pillar of the Star newspaper.)

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SPORTSWATCH

Serenio, Ortalla rule schools tablenet

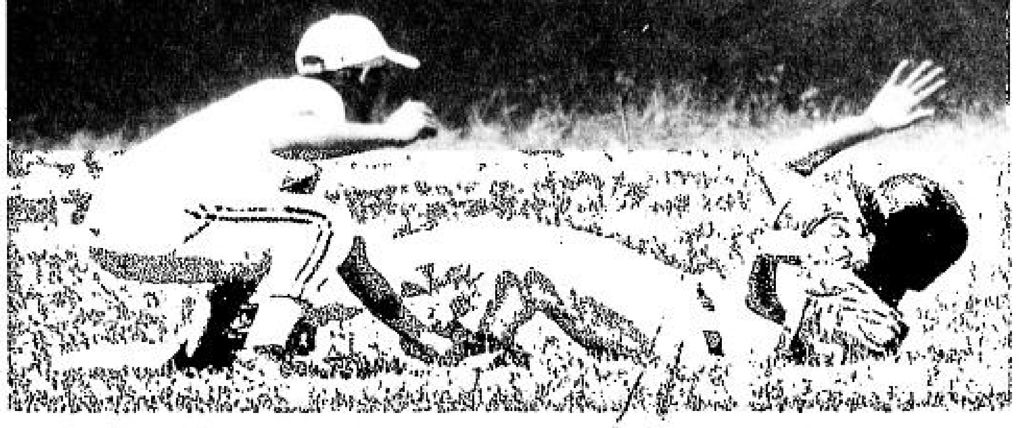
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES' ISAIAS SERONIO AND CELJUN ORTALla beat their respective foes on Monday to rule the men's singles of the 5th Donic Table Tennis National Inter-Scholastics championships and 4th Gerry Cruz Memorial Tournament at the UP Kinetic gym in Quezon City. Seronio, a former national pool member, swept Saint Martin's Nico Cruz, 3-0, to nail the men's non-ranking crown, while Ortalla downed Philip Uy of FCTTCND to bag the men's singles Open title. In the distaff side, Cecilia Bazar of Santo Tomas downed sister Sandra to claim the singles non-ranking title while Jade Jolloren of Cainta scored a 3-1 victory over Sandra Bazar of UST to dominate the Open. Rowena Morales topped the girls' Elementary class with a 3-2 win over Lusha Maderal, while Rondell Blanco beat Loreto Jugo, 3-0, to nail the boy's title.

GCAP Championship derby today

THE STAGFIGHTER OF THE YEAR OF THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIAtion of the Philippines will be known after today's GCAP Championship 6-stag derby which blasts off at 2 p.m. at the San Juan Coliseum. The sixth and final leg of the GCAP series, with 94 fights on the roster, is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Gerry Ramos, with his entry Against All Odds, heads the race with 17.5 points followed by Totoy Haruta (Totoy PEBR) with 16, Pol Estrellado (PEBR), Rudy Albano (Mulawin) and boxing hero Manny Pacquiao (Super Pacman) are tied for third with 15.5, followed by Dean Joson (VGB, 15), Patrick Antonio (P1.3M Labanan, 14.5), Otto Balboa (Otu 77, 14.5), Jingco Brothers and Jet Fernando (Jinfer, 14) and Jack Yap (Bacolor Cockpit, 14).

BBC cockers collide at Makati Coliseum

TOP ROOSTER RAISERS FROM THE CALABARZON AREA COLLIDE AT THE Makati Coliseum tonight in the Batangas Breeders Club (BBC) eliminations for the 2006 Bakbakan National 9-Stag Derby. At stake in the 3-stag elimination event are semifinal berths in the national derby hosted by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders. BBC president said there will be more than 75 matches featuring the first batch of cockers from among BBC's 100 or so members. The second batch will fight it out on Monday at Araneta Coliseum.



TANAUAN City's Michael Manaig slides into the tag of Nathan Macapas of Nueva Ecija in the fourth inning of their game yesterday at the Rizal ballpark. RYAN LIM

Manila bets grab MY Games lead

WILLIAM WONG SEIZED THE LONG JUMP gold medal as Manila leaped to the overall lead with four victories in track and field yesterday in the 2nd Manila Youth Games national invitational at the Rizal Memorial Track and Field Oval.

Wong's victory in the boys' 13-15 came after he grabbed a silver in javelin throw won by fellow Manila boy Ramon Agting Jr. The host city again made a 1-2 finish in the boys 16-17 shot put through the efforts of Emmanuel Manzanero and Randolf Hernandez.

Reimarc Pusing capped the streak with a triumph in the boys 12-under 1,500m run, clocking at five minutes and 16.1 seconds as Manila posted a five-gold, seven-silver and four-bronze performance after Day 2 of the week-long Games.

Manila also won the 8-under mixed football. Quezon City finished the day with a 3-6-2 tally.

Agting posted a distance of 43.88 meters while Wong had 39.87m to beat Parañaque's Ralph Dancel, who settled for bronze.

Manzanero submitted 11.77m while Hernandez had 11.51m to edge third placer Arnel Palmero of Tanauan City .

Wong finally took the gold in long jump with a 5.76m leap to become the first multiple medalist in the event.

Quezon City bet Wilmie Martinez topped the girls' 12-under shotput with a 6.11m throw. Angelica Buenaflor then ruled the girls 12-under 1,500m (5:40.3) before Mark Lozada lorded it over the boys 12-under shot put (8.85m) to keep QC in the running.

Parañaque is in joint third place with two golds to show along with Muntinlupa City, Taguig City and Baguio City. Candon City and Laguna province have one gold each. *Marc Reyes*

Tribu foils Osmeña-Cebu

CEBU CITY—TRIBU SUGBU SPOILED THE debut of Osmeña-Cebu Monday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Cebu Coliseum.

The Tribesmen of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac Jr. whipped the Osmeña-Cebu cagers of former senator John Osmeña, 86-77, to level their record at 3-3.

The Arhtro/Skygo-backed Tribu used a 16-0 start fueled by ex-FEU gunner Jerome Gadiane and UV Lancers standouts Ronaldo Bucao and JR Quiñahan to prove that it's the better team from this queen city of the south.

Osmeña-Cebu slowly recovered and even tied the count at 42 on Nino Marquez's basket with 7:40 left in the third quarter.

The scores:

TRIBU 86—Gadiane 17, Berame 16, Bucao 15, Co 9, Quinahan 9, Ababon 6, Mercado 4, Sevilla 4, Ceniza 2, Caparros 2, Santos 2.

OSMEÑA-CEBU 77—Legaspi 15, Moody 11, Marquez 11, De Guia 9, Abellanosa 9, Espiritu 8, Hardin 6, Reguerra 4, De Castro 2, Zablan 0.

Quarters: 25-18, 41-38, 66-51, 86-77

Coseteng survives big scare

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—DEfending champion Jody Coseteng of San Mig Coffee got a big scare after a costly mistake but rallied in the final three laps to rule Round 9 of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

After a jumpstart, Coseteng had to pass through the penalty box in the third lap, thus losing the pole to Don Pastor of Bioactive Team TEC in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP).

When he returned to the track, he found himself in fourth place, about half a kilometer behind Pastor, with Philip Alvendia of A3 Malayan Automasters and privateer Dominic Bon also in front of him.

Coseteng wrapped up the 12-lap Group 1 Petron Blaze Super Saloon Series in 21:00281, 5.449 seconds ahead of Pastor. Bon took third place while Alvendia and Dennis Uy of Velocity Motors-Valvoline Racing Team ended fourth and fifth respectively.

"It was a big lapse on my part," said Coseteng of his mistake.

Matteo Guidicelli of Velocity Motors-Valvoline Racing Team likewise made an impressive return in this series when he bagged the title in the Group 3 Petron Blaze National Production Car Championship.

COSETENG (No. 16) slows down to take the penalty box following a jumpstart. He later rallied to rule Race 9.

Lanzar, 4 others gain poker finals

NEWCOMER KIRK LANZAR LED FOUR QUALIfiers to the Million Peso Hold'Em Philippine Championship after topping the Bacolod Challenge on Saturday at the Casino Filipino Hotel in Bacolod City.

Lanzar topped the six-hour, non-wager poker tournament and towed Raymond Ong, Jun Caberoy, Cris Hillana and Rudy Felicitas to the grand finals of the Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) yearend event set Dec. 16-17 at the Casino Filipino Pavilion in Manila.

Casino Filipino Bacolod branch manager Mike Bailey, Eduardo M. Chim and Dionisio C. Chua were on hand to watch the players slug it out.

The PPT continues its southern tour with the next tournament this Saturday at CF Cebu-Lahug at Waterfront Hotel, to be followed on Nov. 11 at CF Cebu-Mactan, and on Nov. 25 at CF Davao.

Details on the venues and schedules of other qualifying/satellite tournaments are posted in the Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) website at www.PhilippinePokerTour.com.

PCA Open tennis gets going Friday

ALL IS SET FOR THE STAGING OF THE 25TH PHILippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships, which will kick off with the juniors competitions this Friday at the PCA courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. The men's and ladies Open offers a total cash purse of P400,000 and will be held Nov. 18-26. There will also be competitions in the interclub and intercollegiate divisions. Among the title-contenders in the men's division are Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla, both members of the men's team that won the gold medal in last year's SEA Games, and former RP Davis Cupper Joseph Victorino, who returned to active competition after working as a trainer in Japan for one year. The world's No. 797 Tierro, runner-up to Korean Chung Hee-seok last year, is currently in the US after playing in a series of tournaments in Asia.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Swiss Alps (5), Tucker's Pride (1), Secret Truth (6), Minsk Quest (2)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Bom's Bom's (4), Tribeca (1), Dazzling Affair (5), Without Warning (6)

Race 3—(Super6/Qrt/Tri)—Alam Mo Na Yan (8), Leica N' Raven (1), Para Saiyo (4), Time Is Money (6), Zacky's Pet (3), Diamond Luster (7)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—House Of Riches (8), Silver Place (1), Don King (2), Distinctive Dancer (3), Road Runner (5)

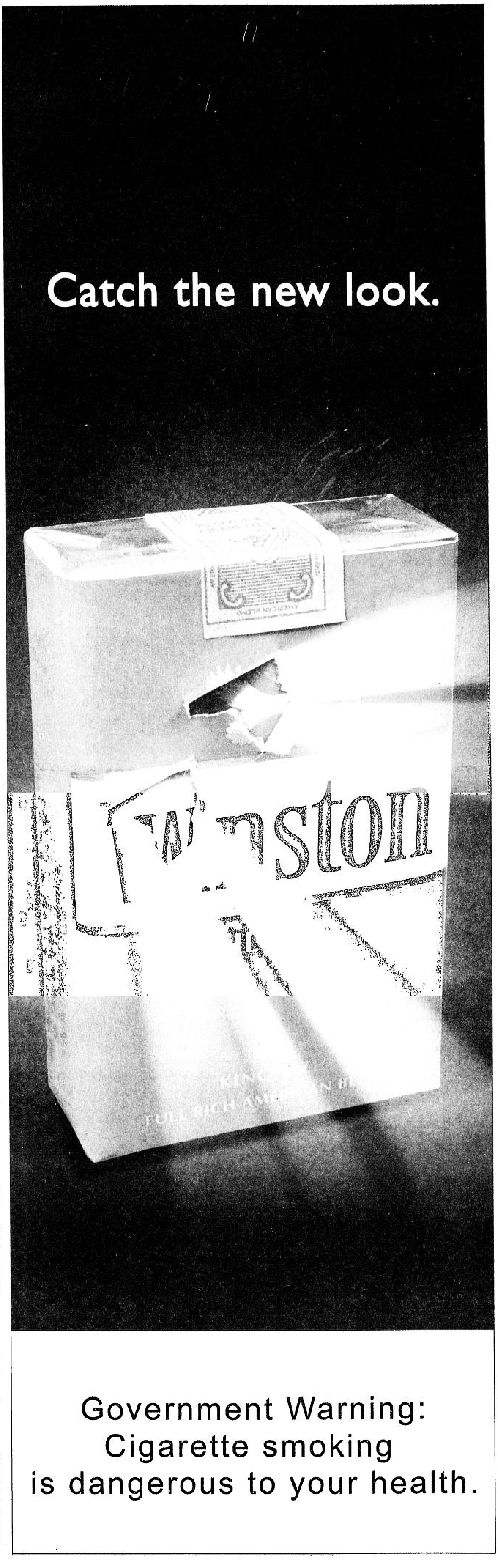
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Boxster (1), Tower Of Strength (3), Step On The Gas (9), Looney Tune (2), Lord Brian (6)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Shifty (6), Bubble Gum (1), Guided Missile (8), Lord Of The Ring (3), Secret Quest (5)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)— D As In Dixie (7), Wynn's Connections (1), Gallant Warrior (5), Bumpy Johnson (6)

Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Hello Africa (4), Lakambini (6), Strong Jays (3), Pristine Water/Sky King (5)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Carbon Copy (6), Red Diamond (9), Perky Perp (7), Spinning Bullet (2), Smiling Jaeda (3), Nitty Gritty (8)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Controversy surrounds Tigers pitcher

DETROIT—WHAT KENNY ROGERS DID ON THE MOUND FOR THE Tigers on Sunday night was spectacular, pitching eight shutout innings to lead the Tigers to 3-1 World Series-evening victory.

But as impressive as it was that Rogers extended his postseason scoreless streak to a stunning 23 innings, he also created some controversy and raised some suspicions by taking the mound with a curious dark spot on his pitching hand.

Rogers, the Plant City High product, pitched in short sleeves on the frigid night and pitched extremely well, allowing only two hits, an infield single in the first and a clean single in the eighth. The Tigers survived an adventurous ninth by closer Todd Jones, who loaded the bases with two outs, to square the Series 1-1, with Game 3 on Tuesday in St. Louis.

As Rogers worked the first inning, Fox cameras zoomed in on a brownish spot on the palm of his left hand near the base of his thumb. When Rogers came out for the second, it was not there, apparently the result of orders to remove what it was.

There were multiple conversations between both managers, coaches and the umpires including one session where three umpires talked to Tigers manager Jim Leyland which added to the confusion and suspicions but didn't lead to any action.

MLB.com reported that some Cardinals watching the game on the clubhouse TV alerted manager Tony La Russa, who asked home-plate umpire Alfonso Marquez to have Rogers return to the mound with cleansed hands.

ROGERS

During an ingame interview with Fox, Leyland said La Russa complained to the umpires because his hitters said the ball was doing funny things. But Leyland said he didn't know anything about it and "obviously it must not have been anything."

La Russa, who did not appear pleased during his chat with the umpires, said during his ingame interview that he did not want to discuss it. Given his ultra-competitive nature, it was surprising that he didn't further challenge the issue.

Umpire supervisor Steve Palermo told Fox that whatever Rogers had on his hand needed to be cleaned off. *NYTimes News Service*

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Ayala to build ₱2-B mall in Pampanga

Sees robust growth in Central Luzon

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

REAL ESTATE GIANT Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) is making its maiden foray into the fast-growing retail market in Pampanga as it starts building a P2-billion mall in Angeles City by December this year, its first mall in Luzon outside of Metro Manila.

ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said in an interview that the mall would sit on a 9.3-hectare lot and offer 70,000 square meters of gross leasable space. The mall is targeted for opening by the fourth quarter of 2008.

"In Pampanga, the purchasing power is quite strong. There is a lot of spending power specially with infrastructure coming along in the Clark-Subic area and the rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX). That entire corridor will be growing quite fast," Ysmael said.

The Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project will connect the industrial, transport and business hubs of Subic, Clark and Tarlac. The timely completion of the project next year is crucial in bolstering growth in Luzon.

Ysmael said the mall would be approximately half an hour away from Quezon City through the NLEX and will target regional centers of Pampanga, Bulacan and northern Metro Manila.

This is ALI's second major development project north of Metro Manila after its resort community Anvaya Cove in Morong, Bataan.

AYALA/ B5

Can Roxas bill lower drug prices?

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE PROPOSED RELAXATION OF THE Intellectual Property Code will fail to bring down the cost of medicines for ordinary Filipinos just like the poorly implemented Generics Law, according to the head of an association of foreign pharmaceutical firms.

More importantly, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) executive vice president and CEO Leo P. Wassmer Jr. has linked political ambitions to the efforts of Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II to drive down the prices of medicines.

"He told me straight he'll be President in 2010," Wassmer said, recalling a meeting with Roxas when the latter was still secretary of trade and industry. "In other words, 'don't fool around with me'."

At that time, Wassmer said PHAP was trying to broker a deal with the government on how to bring down the local prices of medicines without resorting to the drastic measures Roxas had proposed that the group felt infringed on the intellectual property rights of foreign pharmaceutical firms.

As early as a few years ago, the PHAP official said Roxas had already proposed the concept of "parallel importation" where the government would buy cheaper medicines from wholesalers abroad and sell them locally at prices that were lower than those offered by foreign pharmaceutical firms.

Among other things, Roxas also wants to break up what he calls the "oligopolistic practices" of these firms, which control an estimated two-thirds of the P85-billion Philippine pharmaceutical market.

"I will screw you guys," Wassmer recalled Roxas as warning him, when the group voiced their opposition to the scheme. The PHAP official added that these words were "in my language."

Wassmer—who used to head the local unit of pharmaceutical giant Eli Lily—made these previously unpublished statements in an interview with the INQUIRER earlier this year.

Asked if he thought Roxas was using the bill to win over the popular vote in future

CAN ROXAS/ B5

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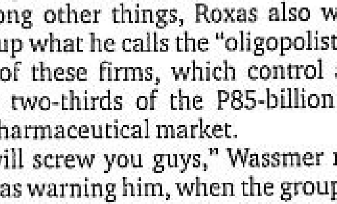

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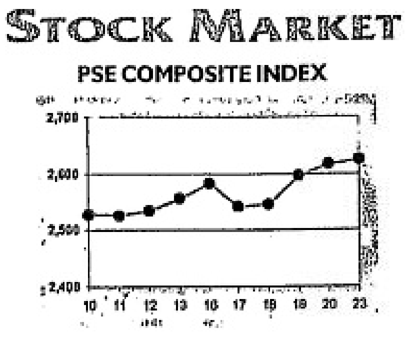

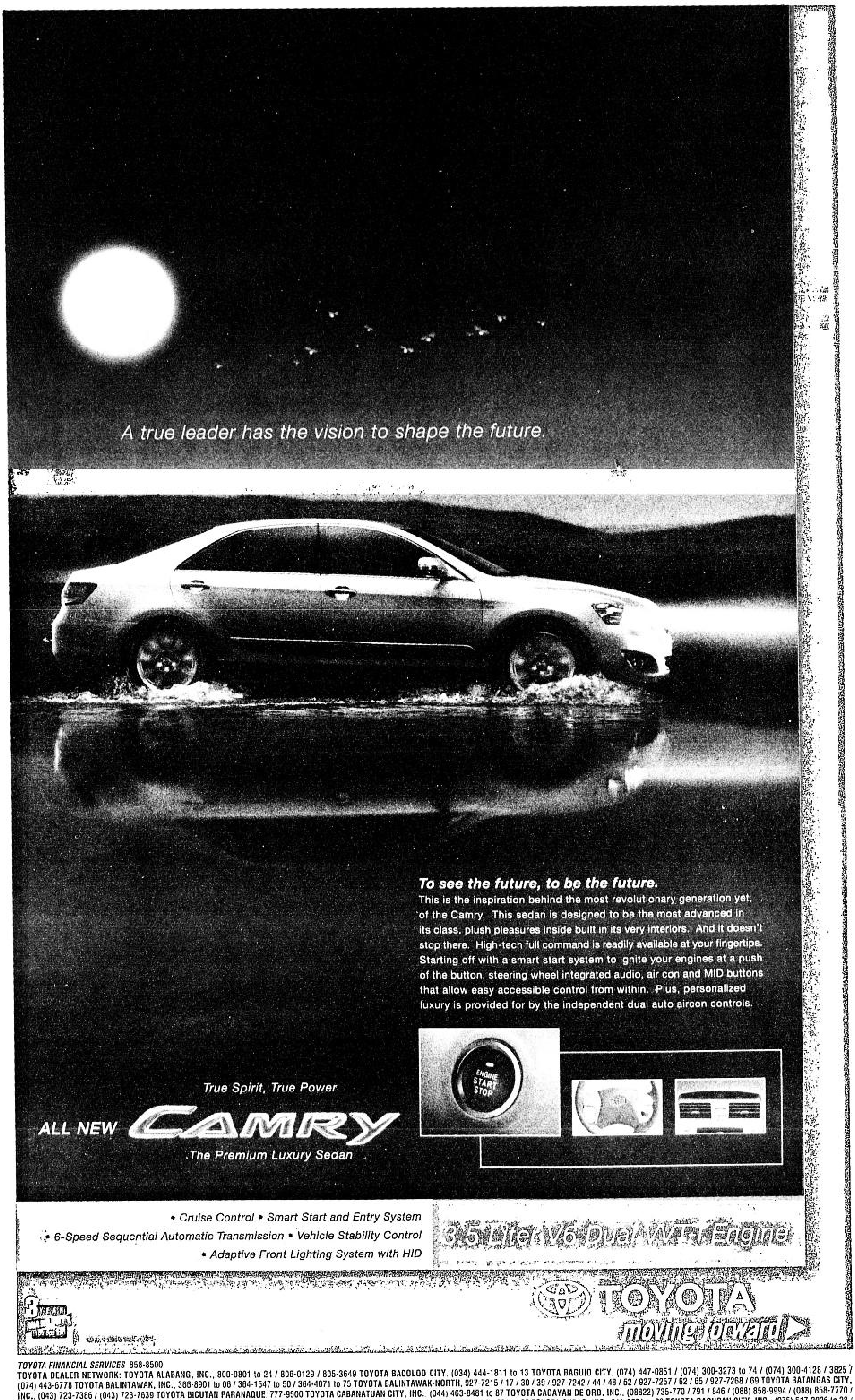

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BIR urged to closely monitor provincial landowners

By Michelle V. Remo

CONGRESSMAN HERMINIO Teves has urged revenue authorities to monitor more closely the operations of landowners in rural areas, claiming that the government each year loses billions in revenue due to underdeclaration of income from agricultural production.

"Agriculture is exempted from the value-added tax, but as far as income tax is concerned, it is not exempted," said Teves, a member of the House committee of ways and means.

Teves, father of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, said that a plantation measuring at least 3 hectares is already considered taxable. But he told reporters that many farmland owners do not properly declare their income as they are poorly monitored by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The solon suggested that the BIR ask the assistance of local government units to detect tax cheats in the provinces.

He said that because the Philippines is still primarily an agricultural country, the farm sector should be a major revenue source for the government.

Teves said many businessmen pay their taxes to local government units, but do not comply with their tax obligations with the national government.

Businesses are required to pay LGUs a sales tax of one to two percent, Teves said.

He added that, with corporate income tax alone, the national government already loses about P50 billion a year from delinquency.

The amount of foregone revenues from corporate income tax can be plugged if operations of landowners are closely monitored, he said.

The corporate income tax was recently raised from 32 percent to 35 percent with the effectivity of the value-added tax reform law.

REP. HERMINIO TEVES

As RP credit improves, ODA inflows may exceed commercial borrowings

More soft loans from donor community offset need to issue bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE NEARLY A decade of grappling with huge budget deficits, inflows from official development assistance may exceed commercial borrowings, reducing the need for government to issue new foreign currency denominated Philippine sovereign bonds (ROPs) starting next year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters that, in the past, multilateral and bilateral lenders were reluctant to increase their credit line for the Philippines. This forced the country to resort to more expensive commercial borrowings, such as bond floats, to fill its external funding requirements.

But the Philippines is now in a position to reverse this trend, the finance chief said.

"What I can see is, we'll probably have more flexibility now in getting a combination of project and program loans vis-a-vis commercial loans, which is good for us because project and program loans are cheaper than commercial loans," Teves said in an interview. "We can live within the total (funding requirement). But why not have more of the program and project, and reduce commercial loans?"

Teves had said during the government's recent economic briefing that the government would borrow $2.2 billion from the overseas market next year—well below the $2.85 billion in total external issuance for this year, and the $3.25 billion average annual foreign bond floats since 2002.

"The combination right now, tentatively is $1.2 billion and $1 billion (commercial loans versus ODA)," Teves said. "But for all you know, ODA will become bigger than the commercial (funding).

"The beauty about the program loan is, it gives us flexibility, not just in budgetary support. But assuming we have problems again, like in Congress, with the (enactment of the annual) budget, we could use that to fund projects with resources not coming from the national government. That's flexibility."

With the government's dependence on ROP's reduced, this development will help generate favorable market sentiment, according to analysts.

Teves said that the fiscal managers have seen the potential for the country to avail of more soft loans from the global donor community.

"I don't know if we can do away with the commercial (portion), but it's a good signal that we're moving away from it," Teves said. "The beauty about commercial loans is, you can tap it anytime. Program loans take some time to negotiate."

The last time the government was able to fund its external requirements using more ODAs than commercial bond floats was during the Ramos administration which ended in 1998.

Romeo Bernardo, who was then finance undersecretary, recalled that there was a lot of support from ODAs, both in terms of soft loans and technical assistance grants.

"Another reason was that we were new in the overseas capital markets, and had no access to external financing," Bernardo said. "We were just recovering from a debt crisis. We did a few (offshore bond floats), but only to create a benchmark for private sector issuance."

At that time, Bernardo added, the strong inflows of portfolio investments or hot money overwhelmed the need to borrow externally.

Global rating agency Standard & Poor's, in a recent report comparing the Philippine and Indonesian sovereigns, said the relatively shallow and underdeveloped domestic capital markets in the two countries meant that a large part of the public sector borrowing requirements had to be sourced externally.

"This resulted in a share of external versus domestic debt for both countries of roughly 50 percent which, especially given their volatile currencies, has added a significant new dimension to the sovereigns' vulnerability," S&P said.

BSP to work out electronic lending scheme for SMEs

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS PLANS to increase the flow of funds to small and medium enterprises by investing in a new electronic facility that will speed up bank lending to eligible borrowers.

Sources from the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board revealed that the new web-based facility that would enable real-time processing of loan rediscounting, which helps sustain banks' funds for short-term lending, would be launched in November.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the launch of the new rediscounting platform would help SMEs which are suppliers of big companies but not necessarily exporters.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo explained that the platform would trim the processing time for rediscounting from a "few days to a few minutes," thus encouraging the use of this underutilized facility.

The BSP has budgeted P20 billion for the rediscounting facility, but "less than half" had been tapped by eligible borrowers, Guinigundo noted.

The rediscounting facility, described as a capital extender, helps banks meet temporary cash needs by refinancing the loans extended to their clients.

The rediscounting cycle starts with a bank extending loans to borrowers who must execute promissory notes. The bank then endorses the papers to the BSP, which then lends an equivalent amount to a certain percentage of the face value of the borrower's promissory note. The bank then plows back the proceeds of the BSP loan into new loans to other borrowers.

"If the bank takes too long to process, then borrowers can't get new loans and economic activity is affected," Guinigundo said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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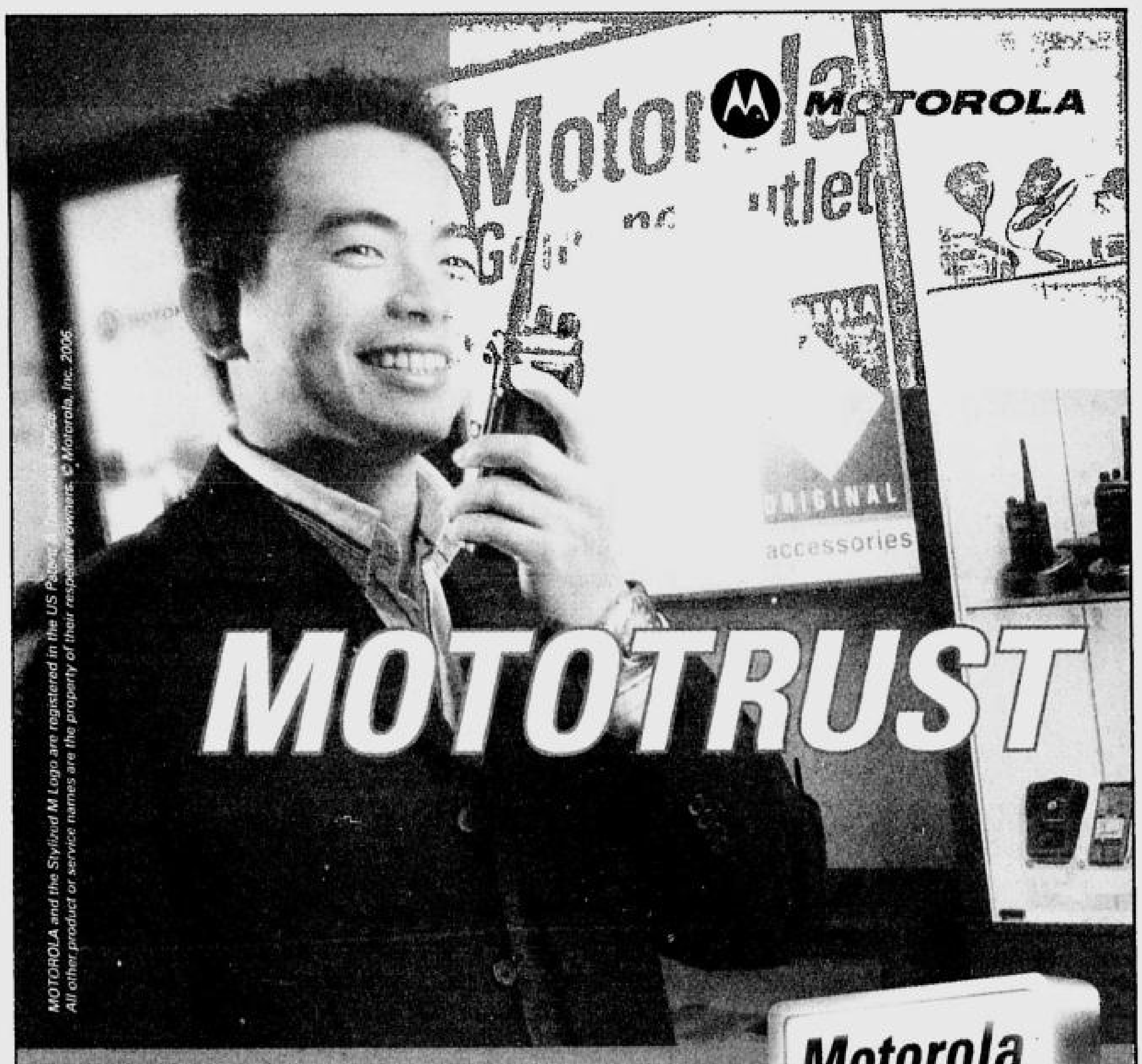

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Gov't non-tax revenue hit ₱7.7B in 9 mos

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT RAISED P7.69 BILLION through the privatization of state assets and the collection of dividends from state-owned companies in the first nine months of the year.

This brought the government's total tax and non-tax revenue collection from January to September to P715.89 billion, exceeding the target for the period by P9.07 billion. The 9-month non-tax revenue figure more than made up for the shortfall in tax collection during the period, which amounted to only P480.76 billion against the target of P492 billion.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that dividends remitted to the national coffers by government-owned and -controlled corporations, government financial institutions and social security institutions from January to September reached P6.6 billion. Earnings from the privatization of state assets in the same period, according to the DOF data, amounted to P1.09 billion. This was more than double the projected privatization proceeds for the whole year of P500 million. Government sources said the full-year figure might even hit P2 billion.

The biggest state assets sold this year included the former International School campus in Makati and the Manila Gas property in Manila.

The government sold the former IS campus to Century Properties Inc. for P1.43 billion. The Manila Gas property was sold to Robinsons Land Corp. for P574 million.

Other assets planned for privatization soon are television stations RPN-9 and IBC-13, Philippine Postal Corp., Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, and the government's stake in water concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Corp.

In the meantime, the state firms that paid the biggest dividends to the government during the period were the Philippine Ports Authority, Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines, Philippine Economic Zone Authority and Philippine National Oil Co.

Software firm sees 40% rise in '06 earnings

US-BASED SOFTWARE COMPANY SAS EXpects its Philippine office to post a 40-percent increase in revenue this year.

The company based its growth projection on the expected demand from domestic banks, which needed to upgrade their technical capacities in preparation for the implementation of Basel II next year.

Sawfin Saw, industry sales manager at SAS, said the company generated $5 million last year from its Philippine operations. But, he said, the company was seeing revenues jumping to $7 million by the end of this year, given its latest software offerings that would cater to the needs of local banks.

The software launched and being marketed by SAS will address the need of banks to comply with the Basel II requirements on how to manage their credit risks.

"The advantage of SAS' solution to financial organizations is that they no longer need external credit-modeling services to accurately evaluate the creditworthiness of current and potential customers," said John Foulley, SAS Asia-Pacific head for risk management practice.

Foulley said not too many banks in the Philippines had updated their technical capacities in accordance with the requirements of Basel II.

He said SAS representatives recently talked with 10 domestic banks, which are expected to update their technical capacities using SAS services. Currently, SAS said, the country's biggest banks and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, itself, were its clients.

It said its credit-scoring software product helped banks quickly develop models for monitoring bad debts. Credit scoring provides all statistics needed, as suggested by the Basel Committee, that will postulate the validation methodology of internal rating systems, SAS said.

SAS, which claims to be the worldwide leader in business intelligence service, generated $1.68 billion in revenue worldwide in 2005. About 40 percent of the amount, SAS said, was contributed by its financial services unit. Michelle V. Remo

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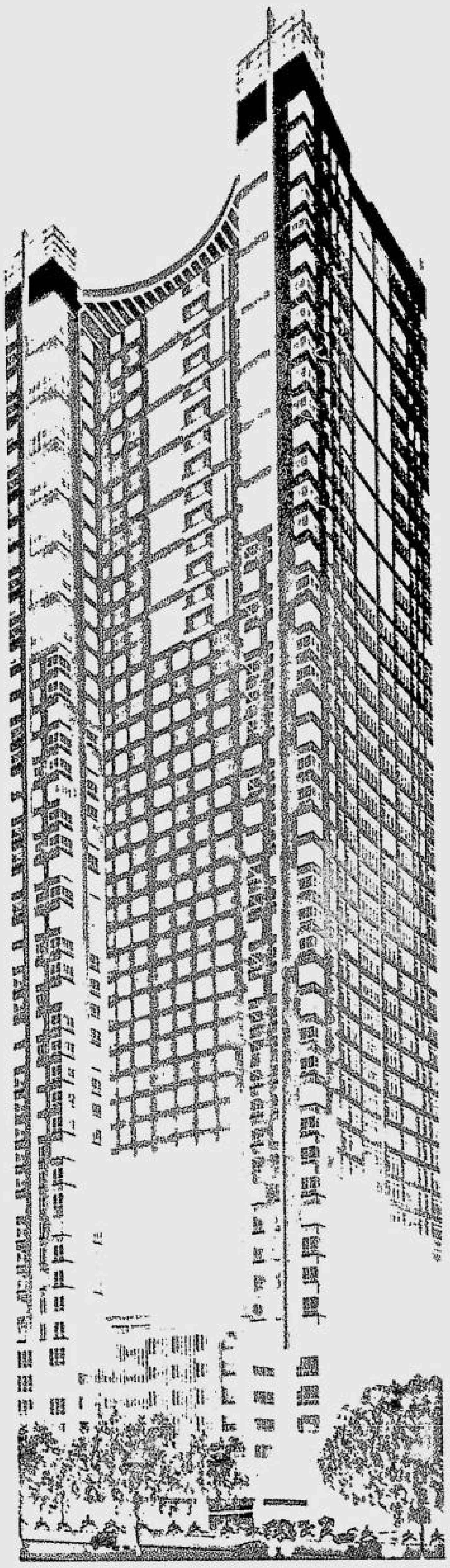

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Enforce used car ban, gov't urged

Campi cheers Customs' order to implement SC decision

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL AUTO ASSEMBLERS HAVE RENEWED calls for the implementation of a Supreme Court ruling that banned the entry of imported used vehicles through freeport areas.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. lauded the Bureau of Customs, which on Oct. 17 issued a memorandum circular ordering the "immediate implementation" of the High Court's decision dated Feb. 20, 2006.

"The Supreme Court resolution finally puts to rest any question on the validity of the prohibition of imported used vehicles," said Elizabeth H. Lee, Campi president.

"The next step is the strict enforcement of the ban by concerned agencies such as the Bureau of Customs, Land Transportation Office, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry-Board of Investments," Lee added.

Campi had complained that the entry of used vehicles—which the group said were unsafe for motorists, pedestrians and even the environment-had been undermining the industry's viability and hampered its recovery from the devastation of the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

In its en banc resolution, the Supreme Court said "used motor vehicles imported via the presently secured fenced-in former Subic Naval Base area cannot be further imported into other parts of the Philippine territory."

The High Tribunal acted on motions for clarification and reconsideration filed by importers who had contested in lower courts Executive Order No. 156, which laid down the prohibition.

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On IPO issue, NTC won't let Bayantel off the hook

By Riza T. Olchondra

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS Inc. (BayanTel), a unit of the Lopez Group of Companies, may be on receivership, but it is not exempt from the franchise provision for telcos to offer shares to the public, according to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

Ronald O. Solis, NTC commissioner, said that the regulator is simply being considerate in giving the telco time to recover financially, but it continues to monitor the telco's financial standing.

BayanTel had incurred massive losses in 2001 and started to default on payments to its creditors, forcing it to seek rehabilitation.

The NTC saw that the telco was in no shape to undertake an IPO.

BayanTel's total debts amounted to $477 million, $277 million of which was owed to banks, while about $200 million to bondholders.

Among its creditors are the Development Bank of the Philippines, United Coconut Planters Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines.

The Lopez-owned telco went into receivership in 2004. When it acquired some breathing space from its creditors, the telco began to slowly recover.

In August 2006, BayanTel revised its net revenue outlook for 2006 at P5.8 billion, slightly higher than the earlier projection of P5.4 billion and 14-percent more robust than the P5.09 billion that the telco actually posted in 2005.

BayanTel chief executive consultant Tunde Fafunwa had said the company's rehabilitation program remains on course. A total of P1.4 billion in interest and principal payments had been settled in July. In June of this year, the company paid interest and principal payments amounting to about P180 million.

"The next question then is, 'Are you ready to go public?'" Solis said.

A public offering may be a long way off, BayanTel spokesman John Rojo said in a phone interview.

"The receivership is for 19 years starting 2004, so we are only in our second year," he said. "Much as we are open to that provision of our franchise, we are not in the right condition to go public."

In the meantime, the NTC will be watching.

In Malampaya, dissipating oil costs gov't ₱33M a day

By Abigail L. Ho

PLANS OF EXTRACTING OIL FROM THE Camago-Malampaya oil rim is still on hold, but the precious resource appears to be dissipating fast, according to an industry official.

Philippine National Oil Co. president and chief executive Eduardo Manalac said that by not extracting the oil from the Malampaya field, the country is losing about P33 million in revenue each day.

Manalac said that the more the extraction of the Malampaya oil is put off, the less oil could be taken out of the reserves and the more difficult it would be to take out whatever oil would be left there.

"The oil that sits under the Malampaya gas field will not be there forever," he said. "Even as we speak, the pressure that is stored in the oil field decreases as the gas is harvested. Our country is losing P33 million of prospective revenue each day that we do not produce Malampaya's oil."

He added that "a choice must be made soon" to extract and develop the Malampaya oil, to ease the country's reliance on foreign fuel sources.

The Department of Energy will soon form a task force to formulate the bidding rules and procedures for the Camago-Malampaya oil rim development contract, in hopes that the contract award can take place before the end of the year.

Manalac had earlier said that once the group finalizes the bidding rules and procedures for the Malampaya oil rim development contract, a transparent bidding process would be held to determine who the project partner of PNOC would be.

With the selection process still at square one, he said the target for drawing first oil from the Malampaya reserves would be pushed back from the original target of end-2007 to the first half of 2008.

Time is of the essence, Manalac stressed.

"Extracting the oil is getting more and more difficult," he explained. "The reserves will drop and, when that happens, we have to look at lowering the cost of development to still make the project economically viable."

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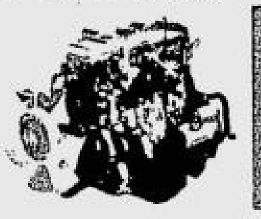

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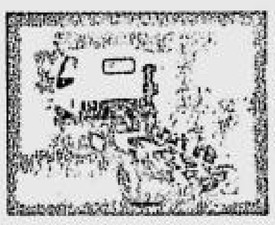

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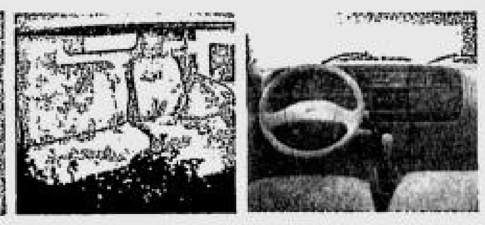

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FUSO

The Korina Show(down) II

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TOP NEWS ANCHOR KORINA Sanchez has apparently survived the latest skirmish with the so-called Tres Marias of ABS-CBN, who issued the popular broadcaster a show-cause memorandum that could have led to her suspension or, worse, possibly dismissal.

According to the grapevine, Sanchez has agreed to apologize to Maria Ressa, the ABS-CBN news and public affairs chief, for having disclosed to a tabloid about she and Ressa having some "chemistry" problems.

But, more than the personality issues, Sanchez has also agreed to drop promotional and marketing work for special marketing events, in view of the more stringent editorial guidelines imposed since Ressa, a former CNN bureau chief, and two other foreign-trained female executives took over the network's news department last year.

In the past, ABS-CBN, and its rival GMA-7, had not only allowed news anchors and reporters to accept paid emceeing jobs but also to appear as endorsers of commercial products.

Such leeway, allowed by the networks in tacit acknowledgment of the industry's rather modest pay scale, oftentimes led to news shows airing thinly disguised advertorials.

Among the first victims of the Ressa policy was reportedly Cito Beltran, who decided to drop his noontime talk show rather than give up the emceeing and product-endorsement circuit.

A born-again Christian, Beltran now also writes introspective pieces for another newspaper.

Sanchez, for her part, decided that her long-term future was with ABS-CBN, and even sought legal advice from litigator Sal Panelo as soon as she received the worrisome memo.

Garcias still at it

THE SIBLING rivalry between Antonio and Ramon "Monchoy" Garcia which spilled on to the front pages during the Ramos years continues unabated.

Elder brother Antonio called for a special board meeting of the publicly listed LMG Chemicals on Oct. 14, after giving only two days' notice.

Monchoy, who has just left on a foreign trip, naturally protested, since the agenda included a proposal to merge LMG's acid plant with Kemwater Philippines Corp. and another to sell the nearly three-hectare company property in Batangas to Meneleo Carlos Jr. for P60 million.

According to the grapevine, the Antonio-led board merely took notice of the younger Garcia's objections, and then proceeded to declare cash dividends for both LMG Chemicals and sister company Chemical Industries of the Philippines, despite the two companies' downward slide.

Money-go-round

- THE LAYA Mananghaya accounting firm has finally decided to change the partnership name to M.T. Mananghaya & Co., nearly three years after former Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya retired from the accounting firm he helped found.
- STUNG by insinuations that the new Balanga, Bataan, school was being used to launder the Valdes family inheritance, school president Bro. Bernie Oca has decided to altogether defer the construction of the school building and wait until after the Valdes family feud have been amicably settled.

Heard through the grapevine

MALACAÑANG has given Takenaka until the end of the month to agree to an amicable settlement and commit to finish Terminal 3 for $5 million.

Takenaka, in the meantime, is protesting that it has not received a single centavo out of the P3-billion preliminary payment advanced by the government to Piatco.

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GMA cheers stock market's climb to highest in 9 years

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERday cheered the stock market's best showing in the last nine years as a leading indicator of more good news for the Philippine economy.

"The stock market surged to its highest in nine years since its decline in the Asian crisis of 1997. Our financial standing is getting better, we are cutting back on our borrowings," said President Arroyo in her opening statement at her regular roundtable discussion in Malacañang.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index closed at 2,625.52, the highest since 2,572.43 on Aug. 11, 1997, the year when Asian economies collapsed as the bubble burst on the currency, stock and property markets.

The President said that the robust stock market "heralded the improvement in the quality of ordinary citizens."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President has taken the exuberance of the local stock market as a vote of approval for the tough fiscal reforms she implemented two years ago and her commitment to pursue more reforms for the rest of her term.

"The government under the leadership of President Arroyo has gone a long way in implementing sound economic policies. There is growing belief that economic takeoff is well within reach and this is the reason the government has been working overtime on the economic blueprint of President Arroyo," said Bunye.

He cited the World Bank's forecast that the Philippine economy was poised to reach higher ground by 2010.

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Can Roxas bill lower drug prices?

From page B1

polls, Wassmer replied, "Maybe, but he won't get my vote."

Politics aside, however, the PHAP official said that the so-called Roxas bill was not the solution to the high cost of medicines in the country, and would only discourage foreign pharmaceutical firms from introducing their latest products to the local market.

Instead, Wassmer said he believed that the solution to the problem was the strict enforcement of the existing law, which theoretically gives patients a choice of differently priced medicines of the same efficacy.

"The biggest and best solution is the Generics Law," he said, but stressed that the political will to implement it fully remains lacking 18 years after it was enacted.

The PHAP official admitted that most foreign pharmaceutical firms had opposed the introduction of the Generics Law when it was being debated in Congress two decades ago. He pointed out, however, that they were correct in predicting that it would have limited effects in making medicines more affordable to ordinary Filipinos.

"Prices won't go down because of the Roxas bill," he said. "And we were right about the Generics Law 18 years ago."

At the same time, foreign pharmaceutical firms are disputing Roxas' assertion that the country has one of the highest costs of medicines in the world.

"In a World Health Organization-organized consultative meeting on prices of medicines held Aug. 2, 2006, Health Action International presented data showing that, for products included in their pricing survey, the Philippines does not have the highest prices in the region," PHAP said in a statement through its publicist. "A price comparison study done by IMS Indonesia during the first quarter of 2005 showed that prices of medicines included in the study are on the average, higher in Singapore and Indonesia."

During the interview, Wassmer tried to debunk Roxas' claim, stating pharmaceuticals were more expensive in countries like Singapore.

When reminded that the standard of living and purchasing power of Singaporeans were also higher than those of the Philippines, Wassmer said, "That's not our fault. That's the fault of the government."

With the Roxas bill starting to gather broader support in both chambers of Congress, the PHAP official warned that it would have dire consequences on the confidence of foreign investors in the country—a traditional argument against nationalist and populist legislation.

"Pharmaceutical firms might bypass the Philippines or pull out if the Roxas bill is passed," Wassmer warned.

"I don't know Mar [Roxas] that well," he added. "There's no doubt he's sincere, but he has wrong advisers." *(To be concluded)*

Ayala to build P2-B mall in Pampanga

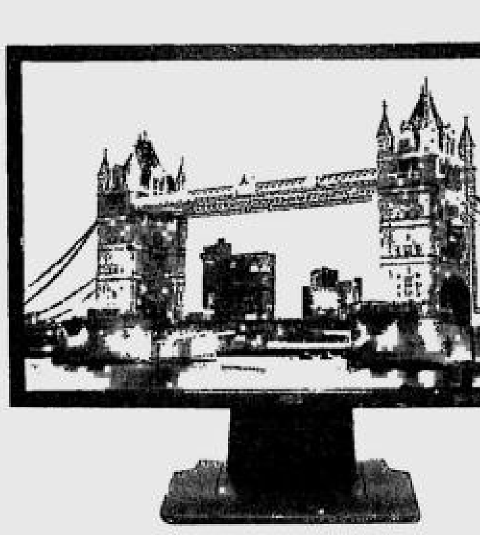
From page B1

ALI is also building the P6-billion, 195,000-square-meter "Trinoma" mall directly linked to the MRT north station in Quezon City, which is expected to open in the second half of 2007.

The Ayala's malls and lifestyle centers are Glorietta in Makati, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Market! Market! and Shops at Serendra both in Fort Bonifacio, and Greenbelt (1-4) also in Makati.

ALI is setting aside P2.3 billion for a new phase of its lifestyle mall dubbed Greenbelt 5, which is envisioned to be the country's new fashion capital. Greenbelt 5 in Makati will open its first phase in October 2007. The second phase will open in July 2008. Greenbelt 5's total leasable space is 31,000 square meters, of which 2,000 square meters will be devoted to a Fashion Avenue that features international luxury brands and other Filipino couture.

Greenbelt 5 will be partly funded by ALI's recent P3-billion, fixed-rate corporate note issue.



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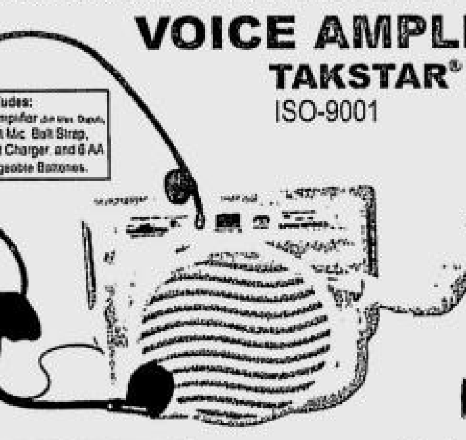

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Exports of agri-based products seen growing to $4B this year

Market demand for nontraditional products rising

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IS expected to generate $4 billion in export earnings this year, up from last year's $3 billion.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the increase will be fueled by the strong demand for the country's new and traditional agriculture-based products in various markets.

The department identified coconut fiber, abaca fiber and fresh fruits as among the projects that are generating strong interest from buyers particularly in China, Japan, United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Middle East and certain Asean countries.

"We are on track to achieving this target although local exporters had to push for bigger volumes to earn more in view of the peso's appreciation in the last three quarters," Agriculture Marketing Assistance Service Director Francisco A. Ramos III told the INQUIRER.

Ramos noted that even processed products such as buko pie, canned pineapples, dried mangoes and fish fillets were now enjoying brisk sales.

He also noted that shipments of fresh produce such as pineapples, cavendish bananas and sweet bananas, which were carving market niches in China and Japan, had been rising steadily.

The country is now exporting abaca fiber to Germany, as car manufacturer Daimler-Benz now uses the material as lining for its vehicles' inner and/or composite panels, he noted.

Also, Ramos said local exporters were working strengthening their foothold in markets in China for emerging new products such as geotextiles—coco fiber and coco peat, which are processed from coconut husks.

A Filipino firm, Cocotechnologies Inc., earlier signed a memorandum of understanding with Guangzhou Rivers Enterprise Co. Ltd. for the supply of coco coir, mats, bio-logs and coconut peat for soil erosion control.

BANANAS still among agriculture sector's biggest dollar earners.

The company had also developed a whole range of coco coir and peat-based products that were now being delivered to Japan, Europe and the United States.

An agriculture official said that despite stringent quarantine rules, exports of fish and fishery products to Europe were likewise growing steadily.

To boost agricultural exports, Ramos said Filipino food exporters had to upgrade their manufacturing systems to ensure that their products were compliant with the standards in the United States and the European Union (EU).

These markets require all food exporters to secure a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification starting January 2007.

This requirement aims to minimize and control biological and chemical hazards in food by identifying potential sources of risk in food production, from the sourcing of raw materials to the production of the finished products.

The HACCP certification covers food manufacturing, food catering and related services, food packaging materials and medical devices.

Oil firm prepares for Biodiesel Bill OK

By Abigail L. Ho

ANTICIPATING THE ENACTment of the Biofuels Bill into law before the end of the year, independent oil firm Flying V has committed to make biodiesel available in all its stations nationwide.

Flying V, the first oil company to sell diesel with a 1-percent coco methyl ester (CME) blend directly from its pumps, said the alternative fuel was now available not only in Metro Manila but also in places as far away as Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte and Davao City in Mindanao.

The oil firm will also be opening a P10-million Bio-Fuels Center at the Philippine Coconut Authority compound in Quezon City on the second week of November.

The recently passed Biofuels Bill is now awaiting President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

Under the bill, all diesel-fed vehicles in the country are required to use 1-percent biodiesel blend as soon as the implementing rules and regulations are approved.

All gasoline-fed vehicles should use fuel with at least a 5-percent ethanol blend within two years upon the effectivity of the law.

The mandated blend will increase to 2 percent for biodiesel after two years, and to 10 percent for ethanol after four years.

According to industry estimates, with the 1-percent biodiesel blend that the law will mandate, biodiesel demand will likely hit 150 million to 160 million liters a year by 2008.

From 2001-2005, biodiesel manufacturer Chemrez Inc. said biodiesel consumption averaged at 6.85 million liters a year, with about 7 million liters consumed last year.

This is seen to rise by 3-4 percent yearly in the next five years.

Based on the Department of Energy's initial estimates, using a 1-percent blend of biodiesel for all of the country's diesel requirements would result in foreign exchange savings of $25 million a year.

For a 5-percent mandatory ethanol blend, savings would be higher at $179 million a year.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Agdao Multi-Purpose Cooperative with office address at Tadura Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St., Agdao, Davao City is applying for a new POEA License as a Landbased Recruitment Agency. The Board of Directors, Management and staff, are the following:

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Upon issuance of landbased license for overseas employment, the Agdao Multi-Purpose Cooperative Recruitment Agency shall hold office at 2nd Floor, Left Wing, Tadura Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St., Agdao, Davao City.

This publication is a compliance of the new POEA Rules and Regulations.

(PDI--Oct. 25, 2006)

Cathay Land expanding Sta. Rosa project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CATHAY LAND, DEVELOPER OF UPSCALE real estate projects, said it was ramping up its South Forbes Golf City project with P750 million worth of additional land and new offerings to take advantage of opportunities in the booming market.

The additional investments will be infused largely into a resort residential project called Phuket Mansions.

"This is in reaction to the overwhelming market response we got for our first Asian modern tropical resort offering called the Bali Mansions," Ng said.

"We are offering bigger lots and bigger houses at Phuket Mansions to give Filipinos a glimpse of Thai (living)," he added.

Ng said land development of Phuket Mansions had already started.

Also, Ng said the land bank of South Forbes in Metro Sta. Rosa had been expanded from 250 hectares to 500 hectares.

The additional land will be developed into the so-called "Clusters of Excellence," which would be composed of education, business, wellness, and leisure clusters in South Forbes Golf City.

"The synergistic contributions of all of these five clusters will not only make South Forbes a world-class fully integrated golf resort city, but will also help bring about a better quality of life for our residents," Ng said.

The education cluster would house schools and specialized institutions such as nursing and IT schools; the business cluster will be composed of buildings suited for BPOs and call centers, while the wellness cluster is intended to include hospitals, spas and various clinics.

The leisure cluster will house South Forbes' main attraction: The P500-million, all-weather 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club, of which 11 holes are expected to open as early as March next year. It is, however, slated for completion in December next year.

DBP gets offer for its PAL stake

THE LUCIO TAN group has offered to buy out the government financial institutions' remaining 4-percent stake in Philippine Airlines.

Reynaldo David, president of Development Bank of the Philippines, said the bank had received such an offer from PAL.

The offer, he said, was in line with the airline's backdoor listing plan.

In a separate interview, PAL president Jaime Bautista said there were talks in the past about the possibility of the Lucio Tan group buying out the GFI's remaining stake.

"They were talking before but I don't know about the latest development," Bautista said.

David said the buying price was good but the DBP had yet to make a decision on whether to sell its stake.

The DBP is weighing the merits of cashing out of PAL right now versus the prospects of liquidating its stake once the airline's shares are listed on the bourse.

The DBP's remaining stake in PAL was estimated at less than 2 percent. The other 2 percent is held by Land Bank of the Philippines, the national government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Retirement Separation and Benefits System.

Publicly-listed Baguio Gold Holdings, which is also part of the Lucio Tan group, earlier acquired full control of the holding companies that own 81 percent of PAL.

Bautista said there was still a layer of corporate restructuring needed to implement PAL's backdoor listing, but noted that the plan was to complete the transaction by the end of this year.

Backdoor listing refers to the process of listing on a bourse without having to conduct an initial public offering. This is done by using a shell or holding company already listed. The GFIs used to hold a significant stake in PAL but it was diluted over the years as the flag carrier went into corporate rehabilitation and debt restructuring after the Asian currency crisis.

Doris C. Dumlao

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of various LaboratoryEquipment

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P4,815,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of various Laboratory and Power Plant Equipment*, as follows:

Item No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
•	ATP Luminometer with Accessory	1	200,000.00
2	Capillary Gas Chromatograph and Accessories	1	2,000,000.00
3	Rapid Soxhlet Fat Extractor	1	1,000,000.00
4	Portable Ductless Fumehood	1	345,000.00
5	Continuous-Feed Grinding Drive and Head	1	258,000.00
6	Stainless Steel Digital Top Loading Balance	5	375,000.00
7	Micropipettors 500-2500µl, 2 µl increments	4	160,000.00
8	Multichannel pipettor	1	75,000.00
9	Chlorine Test Kit with DPD Reagent	1	25,000.00
10	Chlorine Meter	1	60,000.00
11	Light Meter	1	15,000.00
12	Type T Handheld Thermocouple Thermometer	2	50,000.00
13	General Purpose Steel Reversible Tray Cart	1	22,000.00
14	Digital Refractometer	1	35,000.00
15	Label Printer	1	35,000.00
16	Four-in-One Stirring Hot Plate	1	125,000.00
17	Magnetic Hot Plate Stirrer	1	35,000.00
	TOTAL		4,815,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of various Laboratory and Power Plant Equipment*. Delivery is required within 60 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P7,500.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 7, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 7, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Procuring Entity	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	*Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No.	*(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI Oct 25 & Nov 1 2006)

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Office of the Chairman: 7500889

You may also contact Jun Vallejos of our Manila Branch at Tel. 244 5775 or Fax 243 2431

On October 26 & 27, please send your faxes to 243 2431.

Please bear with us for the inconvenience.
We hope to resume normal business operations by November 2006.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, Ground Floor, Energy Complex, Merrill Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5388

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PR Number	Description	Approved Budget
PN-637812	Solar LED Light-in-a-box System	Php 4,028,000.00
GO-616110	Various Sizes of Cable Wires	Php 4,362,100.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Cielo B. de Castro** starting **October 20, 2006** from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. **(Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time) of November 8, 2006 for GO-616110 and November 10, 2006 for PN-637812**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–October 25, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of TABINA
Province of Zamboanga del Sur

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: October 25, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-097-IN-01
World Bank Loan No: 4446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of 654 linear meters SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the **Construction of *654 linear meters shorline protection.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***October 25 to November 23, 2006, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Office of the Municipal Treasurer/ BAC member, Municipality, Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS*** **(Php 6,500.00)** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90)*** days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of ***Three Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Pesos (Php 382,000.00)*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the BAC Chairman, Municipal Budget Division, Municipality of Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur, on or before November 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM*** at which time they will be opend in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is ***Fifteen Million Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two Pesos & 33/100 (Php 15,270,522.33).***
6. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***10:00 AM. of November 9, 2006 at the 3rd floor, Municipal Hall, Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur.***

(Sgd.) Engr. ARMANDO L. PADEL
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 25, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **South China Resources, Inc.** (formerly South China Petroleum & Exploration, Inc.) has moved to a new address:

3/F Low Rise Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.,
Makati City

We can be reached thru the following numbers:

Tel. No.: (632) 892-2049
Telefax No.: (632) 812-2383

(PDI - Oct. 23 to 27, Oct. 30 to 31, & Nov. 1 to 3, 2006)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **S TRADE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INC.** with **SEC REGISTRATION NO. A 199607743** has shortened its corporate Existence effective October 31, 2006 and that the Amended Article of Incorporation dissolving the corporation will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All persons having valid claims against said corporation are requested to present them at its office at 9/F Stanisco Tower, 999 Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila.

(PDI--Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

NATIVIDAD RODRIGO LAZO

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 23, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her bereaved sisters **Carmen, Josefa, Pantaleona, Asuncion, Juana** (†), **Sis. Elena** (†) and brother **Julian** (†); brothers-in-law **Francisco M. Ycasiano, Nelson V. de Guzman**; sister-in-law **Magdalena V. Valte**, cousin **Boy Gaspar**, nephews, nieces and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Lazo residence in San Nicolas, Bulacan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 28, 2006 at the Sta. Maria Assumpta Parish Catholic Cemetery, Bulacan, Bulacan after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

William S. Ty

(Ty Kian Seng)

Peacefully joined his Creator and wife, ***Felicidad Ycasas,*** *on October 23, 2006 at the age of 88.*

He is survived by his children: **Lawrence** and Daisy, **Loretta** and Antonio, **David** and Marilyn, **Helen** and Albert; grandchildren: **Samuel** & Rose, **Patrick**, **Mark**, **Camille**, **Mark Spencer**, **Stephanie**, **John**, **Andrew** & Debbie, **James** and Bernadette, **Peter** & Heather, **Mary Ann**, **Michael**; great-grandchildren: **Shawn**, **Shannon**, **Kevin**, **Nina**, **Daphne** & **Cedric**.

His remains lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

There will be a memorial service on October 27, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. Interment will follow at 9 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"Our True home is in Heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come to save us."
Philippians 3:20

Our Dearly Beloved

GLORIA GUTIERREZ UMALI

of St. Scholastica's Academy,
San Fernando, Pampanga Class of 1953
"Nothing is hard, if done with love."

Peacefully joined Our Lord Jesus and The Blessed Mother on October 22, 2006.

Her husband **Colonel Maximo** (†); loving children & in-laws **Jun & Mabel, Tito, MaryLou, Rick, Marizon & Edwin** (†), **Maritess & Bernie,** and **Jorge**; grandchildren **Marjorie, Junboy, Mac Mac, Junjun, Art** and **Paolo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 28, 2006 at Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig after the 9 a.m. Holy Mass.

In Loving Memory of

Godofredo C. Fernandez

Tarlac City and Urdaneta, Pangasinan
Died 25 October 1988

We request the pious reader to say a Special Prayer for eternal happiness with his CREATOR.

In Loving Memory of our Dearly Beloved

RUPERTA V. SANTOS

Birthday : March 27, 1921
Died : October 23, 2006

Children:
Drs. BELGINA & GERARDO CABIGAO
Dr. RENATO & AURORA
MELANDA & ATTY. REDENTOR LACANILAO
REYNILO & ARMI
REMEL & MARILYN
ROLLY & JULIE
Drs. FLEURINIA & PACIFICO SARMIENTO
Dra. VELMINA & JOSEPH RIVERA
Dra. FLORENCIA & ROMEO CRUZ

Grandchildren & Great grandchildren

Her body lies in state at Mesulo, Arayat, Pampanga.

Interment will be tomorrow, October 26, 2006 at 7:30 a.m. in Arayat, Pampanga.

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TREASURER'S PREDICTION

Low rates to boost earnings

By Michelle V. Remo

NATIONAL TREASURER OMAR CRUZ HAS predicted that low interest rates would boost corporate earnings in the fourth quarter this year.

He said this should help government make up for its tax-collection shortfall in the first nine months because it will be able to collect more income tax from corporations.

"Income of financial institutions were adversely affected by the lower interest rates, but these have also resulted in the lower cost of doing business," Cruz said in a briefing.

"Corporate earnings (in the fourth quarter) should make up for it (tax collection shortfall in the previous months)," he added.

Low interest rates mean low cost of borrowings, and consequently higher corporate earnings.

The 91-day Treasury bill rate has been hovering at the 5-percent level, lower than the 6.4 to 6.5 percent assumed by fiscal authorities when the 2006 fiscal program was set last year.

The 91-day T-bill rate was recorded at 5.465 percent during the last auction.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) collected only P480.755 billion as of September, P12 billion short of its nine-month target of P492.439 billion.

Cruz said the P12-billion shortfall would be reduced, if not totally wiped out, in the fourth quarter due to the collection of higher corporate income tax.

"If the BIR will still be short of its target for the year, the shortfall would only come from taxes on government securities," Cruz said.

Despite the tax collection shortfall in the first three quarters, the national government still managed to surpass its overall revenue target of P706.82 billion by collecting P715.889 billion.

This was due to higher-than-expected collection of non-tax revenues, such as the government's dividends from state-owned firms and proceeds from privatization.

Cruz said that weak tax collection due to the reduction in the issuance of Treasury bills and bonds was a "happy problem," as it was a natural consequence of a declining budget deficit and improving fiscal condition.

Cruz noted that whatever the BIR loses due to lower interest rates, the national government gains in the form of lower-than-programmed cost of borrowings.

The government saved roughly P17 billion in the first nine months of the year because of low interest rates.

RP production of gold up 9%

By Christine A. Gaylican

GOLD PRODUCTION IN THE FIRST HALF went up 9.43 percent to 18,949 kilograms from 17,315 kg last year due to the increase in the production of mining companies in Benguet and Zamboanga.

Recording higher production were Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp.'s Victoria Gold Project; Philex Mining Corp.'s Padcal Copper Project in Benguet, and TVI Resources Development Phil. Inc.'s Canatuan Gold Project in Zamboanga Del Norte, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said these mining companies were benefiting from rising gold prices in the world market.

Its figures showed that the average price of gold rose 38 percent to $590.31/troy ounce in 2006 from $427.43/troy ounce in 2005.

Mineral economics division head Benjamin de Vera estimated that gold prices would continue rising as global investors move to long-term tangible investments such as gold given tensions in the Middle East.

DBP seen to hit '06 profit target

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES is on track to meeting its net profit target this year of P3.5 billion after hitting P3.08 billion as of September.

"It (the target) is something that we'll easily reach," DBP president Reynaldo David said in a briefing late Monday.

The bank's nine-month net profit of P3.08 billion was 22.71 percent more than what it earned last year.

David said the substantial improvement in profitability was "an indication that the bank was more strategically poised to undertake more aggressive development activities in support of its priority thrusts."

For the first nine months, gross income amounted to P13.58 billion, up 13.74 percent from a year ago. Total assets also went up to P230.81 billion, 22.93 percent better than last year's.

David noted that the bank's P93.04 billion-loan portfolio continued to favor developmental loans, which reached P52.04 billion.

The remainder went to commercial loans.

DBP has vowed to maintain its overall business strategy that hinged on financing the following strategic areas: infrastructure and logistics; social services; environment; micro, small and medium enterprises, and commercial lending.

To date, P5.02 billion had been budgeted for 204 projects under the bank's Sustainable Logistics Development Program: the Road RoRo (Roll-on, Roll-off) Terminal System, Cold Chain and Grains Highway.

Under social services, DBP supports investments in health care, education, housing, community development and eco-tourism projects in partnership with local governments and the private sector.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Ghosts in the machine?

Employees manning the graveyard shift of Tollways Management Corp's Pulilan storage area tell haunting tales. What's spooky is, they're sober

By Tessa R. Salazar

WE'VE ALL HEARD OF the sound of chains dragged in the attic, creaking doors, and cupboards opening and closing when people tell stories of haunted houses, but have you heard of any good haunted car stories lately?

Read on and pray the car in your garage doesn't suddenly turn itself on.

The two-hectare Pulilan impounding area is Tollways Management Corp.'s dumping ground for abandoned and stalled vehicles along the North Luzon Expressway. It's also the halfway house of the Automobile Association Philippines' and TMC's emergency response team.

It's also considered the "cemetery" for vehicles that figure in career-ending accidents.

INQUIRER Motoring visited the impounding area several times this year for research purposes—mostly for reasons that had to do with road safety. The pile of crumpled vehicle—the body frames of several models of vehicles twisted in mute agony—seemed eternally silent now. Rendered to nothing more than junk after a split second of unimaginable horror, these vehicles bore the result of various accidents—from drivers falling asleep, blown tires, to collisions.

The last time we visited the place, the stench of blood from a vehicle recently brought in permeated the air. We learned that the driver of the vehicle fell asleep while driving. The driver didn't survive the crash.

Numerous stories have wafted out of the wreckages. Guards and rescue staff never seem to run out of firsthand narratives of apparitions seen inside the vehicles and even in their barracks, of horns honking from parked vehicles, headlights and even showers turning on.

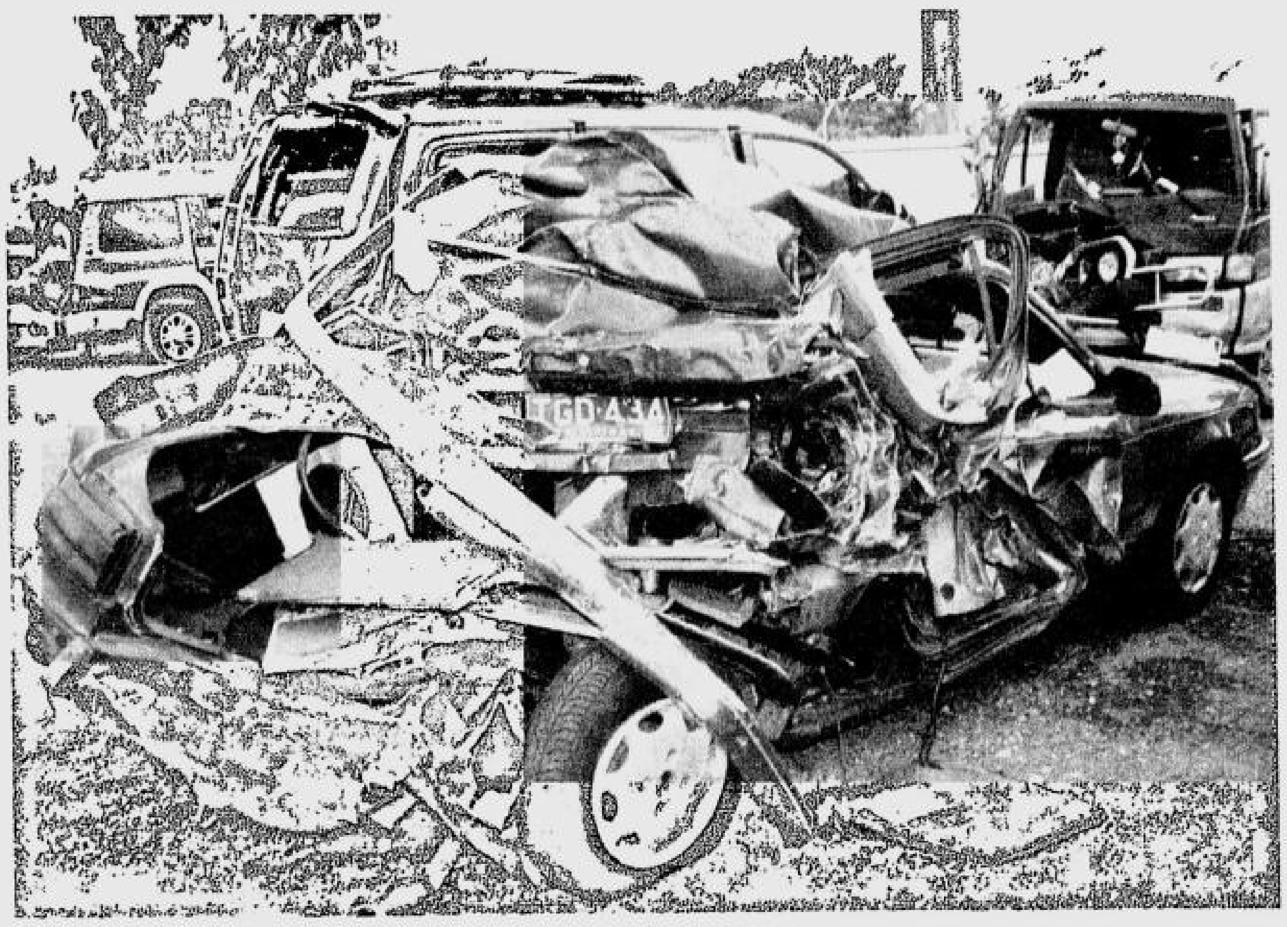
Driver Ronnie Maceda of the AAP mans the impounding area's night shift. He also conducts rescues in vehicular accidents happening along the stretch of the North Luzon Expressway.

"Most of the vehicles brought here still have blood and pieces of human flesh from their drivers and occupants," he described in Filipino. He recounted that it was during the All Souls' Day holiday weekend that the MNTC rescue staff were on full alert, as this was the time when vehicular accidents along the tollways were frequent.

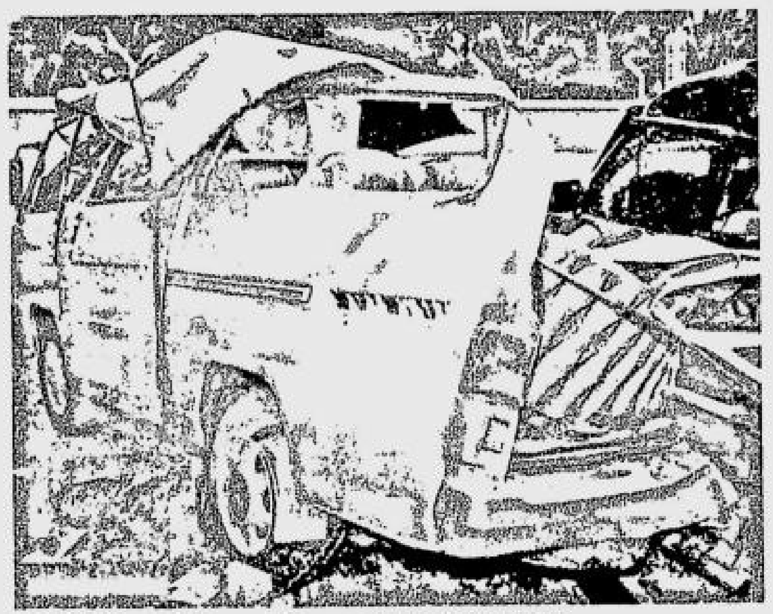
The honking Elf

Ronnie recounted that during a drizzle on Nov. 1 last year, an Isuzu Elf figured in an acci-

GHOSTS/ B2-2


GRIM (and ghostly) reminders at the Pulilan storage area.

BLOWN tires don't happen by chance. Check tire pressure and make sure it corresponds to manufacturers' specifications.


TOPLESS van. Who could've possibly survived this?

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Just another Subaru test drive, really…

My drift

Andre Palma

MY MIND IS SCREAMING FOR THE Subaru to stop but my foot still continues to apply steady pressure to throttle. I can hear my labored breathing and a pulse that makes a steady approach to redline. Part of me is waiting for someone to call over the intercom, "Straight two hundred, right two over crest, caution post on outside, keep in" but I'm very much alone in the car.

Lifting gently on the gas pedal, I start to hover my left foot over the brakes. The scenery in the front windscreen begins to develop clarity, better resolution and color—the world is not bathed in a speed-induced sepia anymore. My insides then begin to catch up with my brain; the gray matter admittedly still at bit cottony.

Sensory overload from the g forces of acceleration, a case of adult onset vertigo perhaps or just one too many cream cheese-smeared bagels for breakfast? None of these reasons are the culprits me thinks.

It hits me then, the explanation for why I'm so disoriented and confused. It is a simple case of expectation and experience being run roughshod by what reality is throwing at you. You think you know what is going to unfold having driven hundreds of vehicles. You are convinced that there is order in the physical world—then the Subaru Forester 2.5XT happens.

Simple formula

Let me explain. The formula for this wagon/SUV crossover from Fuji Heavy Industries is simple. Take a simply designed, five-door, compact soft-road shell and go bonkers with everything else. Just how can this be done? Slap on top of the said utility platform the engine and drive train of the Impreza WRX four-wheel-drive, rally replica.

The Forester comes with the same 2.5-liter, turbocharged and intercooled, boxer four of the Impreza. For those who revel in numbers, that translates into some 240 bhp and 320 Nm of torque, more than enough power and pull to make this generally unassuming mom mobile able to jump at stoplights better than most teenagers with their hopped-up rice cookers. Acceleration, as described in the first few paragraphs, is superb once the turbo spools up and force feeds air into the combustion chamber.

Said engine ability is transmitted to the four driven wheels by a decent four-speed automatic gearbox. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this car comes with a slush box. Purists will deride such an appointment, even looking over the fact that the 4-speed Sportshift +/- system comes from the hallowed skunkworks of Prodrive itself. Really can't live with an automatic? I'll let you in on a little secret. There is this innocuous toggle switch to the 10 o'clock of the gear stalk and it says: Power. Just leave the transmission in D and let the extra kick in the pants do the talking, ok?

THE UNASSUMING Forester XT: engine from Impreza WRX, Sportshift 4-speed AT by Prodrive

THE MOST common view of the Forester XT we will usually see, get used to it. Two hundred forty bhp and 320 Nm of torque make sure.

Computer-assisted

All-wheel drive makes sure that the signature, all-condition grip of this brand is very much present and accounted for. Just for good measure and a possible reaction to the decent power output and massive amount of torque this crossover has, computer-assisted stability control is also present.

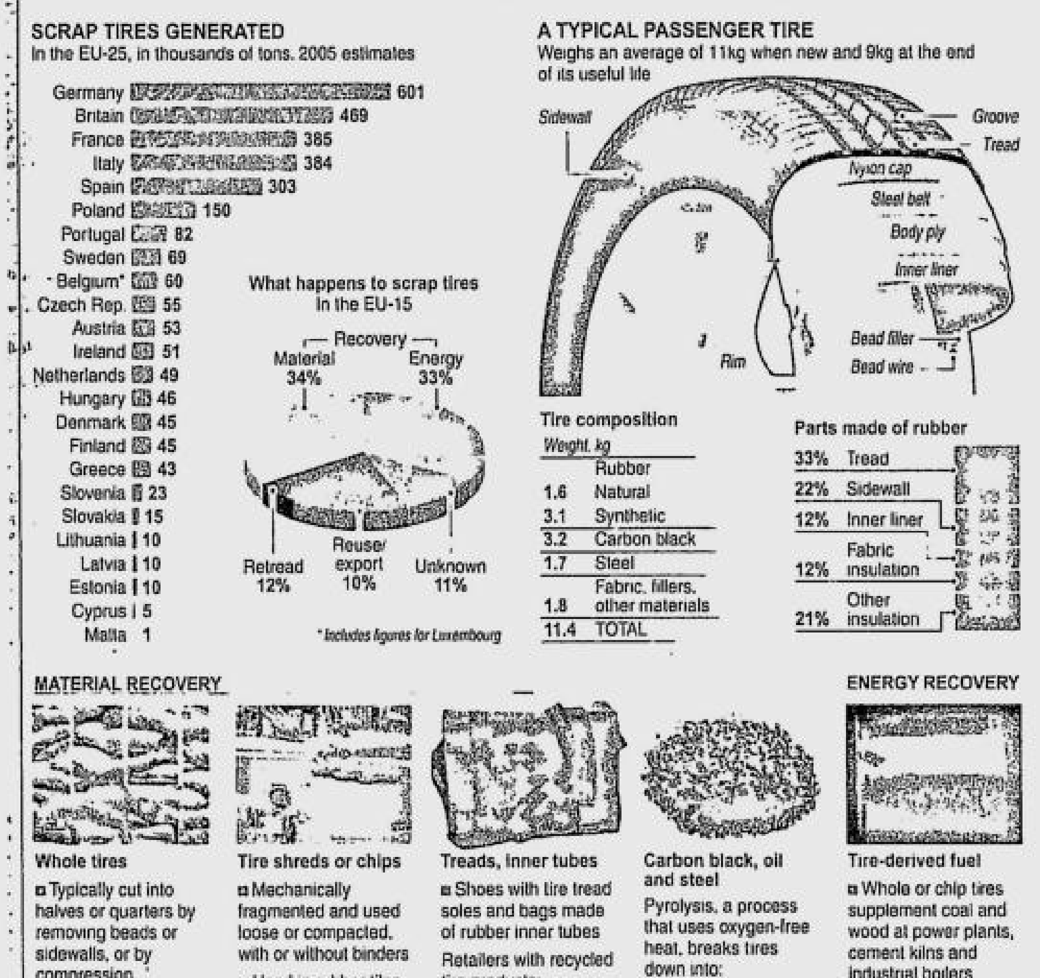
This allows one to get ever so slightly sideways, getting a taste of what a full on, four-wheel-power slide feels like, without getting bitten by a complete loss of traction and control. May I suggest that readers leave this feature on for heaven's sake? It is that easy to overcook drifting this car, it is some part SUV after all.

Chinks in the Forester's armor come few and far between but two issues stand out nonetheless. The all-rending, class-leading power comes at a price: that of any sort of satisfactory fuel consumption. A lead weighted foot, while awarded with the near instantaneous satisfaction of raw, unbridled acceleration, will cost you a fair amount of fuel. Then there are the brakes. While the calipers and rotors are computer assisted with ABS and EBD, a little more pedal feel and bite is obviously appreciated in a package so laced with power.

The best way to end this review is to remind readers that despite going on like the assessment of a performance car, this week's installment is about a five-door family wagon/SUV. While able to blow away most anything on Philippine roads, the Forester XT will do the grocery run, car pool duty and weekend trips to the beach just as well as most other vehicles in the segment. It's just that your ice cream won't melt, there'll be more time for homework and the kids won't get to say, "Are we there yet?" as many times. Can life get any better?

RECYCLE AND REUSE: SCRAP TIRES

Every year, approximately 2.6 million tons of scrap tires are generated in Europe. The E.U. Landfill Directive, enacted in 1999, has banned whole post consumer tires from landfills since 2003 and shredded tires since July. Rubber is a valuable material and there are many innovative ways to potentially reuse and recycle tires



Tire composition

Weight, kg	
	Rubber
1.6	Natural
3.1	Synthetic
3.2	Carbon black
1.7	Steel
1.8	Fabric, fillers, other materials
11.4	TOTAL

Parts made of rubber

33%	Tread
22%	Sidewall
12%	Inner liner
12%	Fabric insulation
21%	Other insulation

Whole tires
- Typically cut into halves or quarters by removing beads or sidewalls, or by compression
- Used in retaining walls, planters, playground swings

Tire shreds or chips
- Mechanically fragmented and used loose or compacted, with or without binders
- Used in rubber tiles and pavers, artificial turf, running tracks, drains, garden mulch

Treads, inner tubes
- Shoes with tire tread soles and bags made of rubber inner tubes

Retailers with recycled tire products:
- ethicalwares.com
- adbusters.org/metas/corpo/blackspotshoes/

Carbon black, oil and steel

Pyrolysis, a process that uses oxygen-free heat, breaks tires down into:
- 1 kg of carbon black
- 4 liters of oil
- 1kg of steel
- 1kg of methane

Tire-derived fuel
- Whole or chip tires supplement coal and wood at power plants, cement kilns and industrial boilers
- Produces as much energy as oil, 25% more energy than coal

Sources: European Tire & Rubber Manufacturers Association, European Tire Recycling Association, U.S. Rubber Manufacturers Association, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

REUTERS

MotorScope

Local X-Trail, Murano not affected by global recall

NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES INC. PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER LEMAN LEE RECENTLY CLARIFIED THAT X-trails and Muranos coming from NMPI are not included in the global recall announced earlier.

"There are absolutely no X-Trails assembled and distributed by NMPI as well as Muranos which we import and sell through our authorized dealers that are part of the 50,000 SUVs included in Nissan Japan's vehicle recall," Lee said.

Nissan Motor Ltd., Japan made a worldwide recall announcement for SUVs equipped with the Intelligent Key and produced in the Kyushu plant. These vehicles are exported to the United States (including Guam), Canada, Puerto Rico, Taiwan and Singapore. None of these vehicles are imported by NMPI and available in the Philippines.

In a press statement, Nissan Headquarters in Tokyo launched the recall of over 50,000 SUVs because of an ignition key defect, according to an Associated Press wire release.

The affected X-Trail model is only available in Japan with right-hand drive specification. While the Murano recall does not include the Philippine version, which is based on the European specification.

"We assure the public, especially X-Trail and Murano owners that their vehicles are free from this ignition key defect," Lee added.

Driving Lea Salonga at 2006 Forbes global CEO conference

THE FORBES GLOBAL CEO CONFERENCE 2006, HELD RECENTLY IN SINGAPORE, HAD AN ALL-STAR LINEUP. THE WORLD'S EMinent group of movers and shakers of more than 400 business leaders, tycoons and thought-leaders attended the region's foremost CEO conference. The Forbes global CEO conference serves as an annual opportunity for corporate leaders to discuss and debate key issues of global concern and to build relationships.

Mercedes-Benz was present at this prestigious event as the official car of the 6th Annual Forbes Global CEO Conference—"Driving Those who Drive the World." The driving pleasure in the Mercedes-Benz new S-Class was naturally extended also to the region's top performer, the multiaward-winning star, Lea Salonga. Dr Rainer Thiel, president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler Southeast Asia greeted the Tony award-winning "Miss Saigon" before her stellar performance of "An Evening of Broadway with Lea Salonga" at the Forbes global CEO conference gala dinner, held recently at Sentosa Cove.

State-of-the-art car accessories Los Angeles style

AWARDED THE FIRST-EVER BLAU- PUNKT PREMIUM STORE IN THE COUNTRY ON OCT. 9, 2005, AND MANNED BY SKILLED INstallers, friendly sales team, and the best after sales service, L.A. Cars specializes in tint, car audio, multimedia, lights and a variety of accessories. The tint room is indoor, air-conditioned, air purified and pollution free. The room purifier ionizes the dust and smoke particles to the ground hence making the tint application—dust- and smoke-free.

L.A. carries several kinds of tint—from solar controlled, heat shielding (IR Film), safety and security to privacy protection films. It also carries commercial and residential tints. Its brands include Solargard premium, Polar, 3M, Sungard, V-kool, RikeCool, Neuvision, Platinum, Titanium and Sunmask.

With "premium" as the operative word, L.A. offers a wide range of products—alarms, horns, stereos, speakers, amplifiers, fog lights, head lights, neon lights, H.I.D Xenon Lights, projector head lights, gauge panels, wiring, steering wheel covers, car covers, locks, tint, air fresheners, step-boards, roof rails, batteries, ionizers, plate covers, car care items, wipers, spark plugs, cold air intakes, rain gutters, rear visors, mirrors, side mirrors, DVD players, roof mount monitors and in-dash TVs, antennas—as well as special services like laser headlight alignment and sound tuning.

"We at L.A. Cars believe there is no compromise when it comes to service or quality. Perfection is our goal. Most of our products such as speakers, subwoofers, amplifiers, stereos, horns, alarms, multimedia and lights are tested in our state-of-the art sound room so that customers can have the option of experiencing the different brands and make an informed purchase decision," said Amrit Mipuri, L.A. owner and operator.

L.A. Cars is located at 7280 Mayapis St., cor. Malugay St., San Antonio Village, Makati City. It is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

Ghosts in the machine?

From page B2-1

AN ACCIDENT caused by a truck driver who fell asleep behind the wheel

dent. The driver of the Elf died in that accident. As the Elf was brought in to the impounding area, its horn started honking. Ronnie detached the cables from the battery. To their surprise, the Elf's horn still honked.

Ronnie also recalled of an old man who was attempting to claim his Suzuki multicab at 6 a.m. at the impounding area. It had overheated the day before. Ronnie said that the old man (whose name he couldn't recall) kept looking at a crumpled white Mazda sedan parked beside the multicab.

"The old man was wondering what a man inside a totaled Mazda was doing. He thought the guy was just resting. He nevertheless reported to the guards what he saw, but when the guard checked the car for himself, the guard didn't see anyone," said Ronnie.

Perplexed, the Suzuki owner described the man inside the Mazda as wearing a checkered polo and wearing a cap. Ronnie and the guards recalled that the driver in the Mazda who died the night before wore the same. Spooked upon learning this, the old man stayed inside the guard house and just waited for his multicab to be driven out by the staff.

Ronnie also says that the roving guards had gotten used to "strange encounters" at the impounding area that they manage to talk to the apparitions. Guards who see headlights of wrecked cars turning on by themselves shout matter-of-factly: *"Patay na po kayo baka di n'yo pa po alam* (You're already dead, in case you didn't know)."

Most of the time, the strange activities stop after this "rude awakening."

Abandoned container van

Bebot Reyes, former AAP operations superintendent who once manned the Pulilan impounding area, recalled sometime this May that an impounded container van's headlights suddenly turned on. The container van was reported by traffic control room a few days before as abandoned.

Bebot said no one went inside the vehicle for fear that it was used in criminal activities.

After two days, the owner arrived to claim the container van. When the back door of the container van was opened for inspection, the bodies of the driver and his assistant were found.

Bebot narrated another sighting witnessed by caretakers of stores in front of the impounding area saw who they thought was a female staffer sleeping in the second floor of the barracks of the drivers and helpers.

CRUMPLED like a tin can, this SUV was sandwiched between a truck in front that applied its brakes all too suddenly, and a bus at the rear that couldn't brake on time.

"It was 3:30 a.m. and these vendors saw a woman with long hair alone on the second floor. Our male staffer told them there was no woman sleeping on the second floor. They insisted that they saw a woman with long hair," he said.

Prayers for the dead

Bebot also gave an account of an AAP mechanic who asked his permission to sleep at the barracks one night. The mechanic, Bebot described, had a "herculean body. Just as the mechanic was about to call it a night at the barracks, the showers at the bathroom were turned on.

All that machismo went flying out of the window. "He turned off the shower and rushed out to the tow truck driver. He spent the night in the tow truck."

"We pray for them," Ronnie said of the otherworldly beings he and his staff encounter at the impounding area.

For rescuers who have been so used to doing anything possible to save lives during accidents, it's the most they could do for the ones who didn't make it in this world and still apparently haven't found their way to the next.

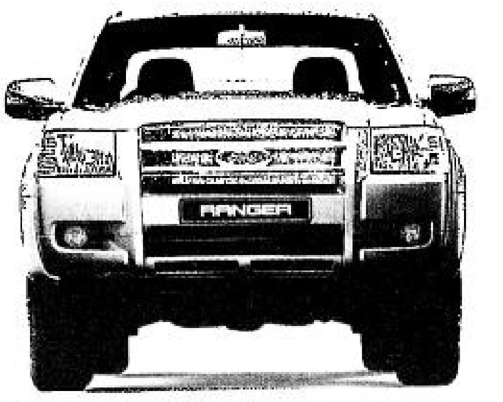
How to drive a Ranger

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF YOU HAD BEEN AT THE BA-tangas Racing Circuit last Wednesday, you would have probably wondered: Is this any way to drive a pickup truck? For it's certainly unusual to see a pickup being driven at high speed at BRC, caroming like a car through apexes and around pylons set up to simulate a slalom course.

By inviting motoring journalists to the BRC to test the 2007 Ranger, Ford Group Philippines manifested supreme confidence in the capabilities of its all-new one-ton "Built Ford Tough" pickup truck. Ford wanted to prove that aside from being a powerful workhouse with best-in-class torque, off-road capability, payload and towing capacity, the new Ranger offers the driving dynamics, style, comfort and refinement of a passenger car. Meaning that the Ranger can be driven as a cargo truck, a sedan or a 4x4 vehicle, whichever role suits the situation at hand.



THE FACE of the new Ranger.

Challenge

I joined the excursion because, more than anything else. I wanted to see the BRC and experience driving on its racetrack. Pickup trucks and off-roading are not exactly my favorite mode of transportation, but surprisingly enough, I ended up enjoying the day. This was because Ford designed a program of motoring activities that would not only validate its bragging about the new Ranger's prowess, but also challenge the driving skill of each media guest.

Former Asian Formula 3 champion Pepon Marave was on hand to oversee the on-road activities while Biboy Bargas, a Rainforest Challenge veteran, supervised the off-road phase. Ford divided us into teams of three. Team members would take turns driving, with a coach/instructor seated behind. Prizes were at stake for the teams winning the three test-drive segments: the acceleration and braking test, the slalom and the off-road segment.

Before these activities, a Ranger was paraded pulling a huge container van to prove that it can haul up to three tons of trailer. Ford is proud of the Ranger's towing and payload capacity, the latter up to 1,266 liters.

THE CARLIKE cabin of the Ranger.

Response

The acceleration and braking test on a measured, isolated portion of the track showcased the instantaneous and smooth response sans turbo lag of the new Ranger's DuraTORQ 380 turbo-diesel common-rail direct-injection (TDCi) engine. The 2007 Ranger is offered with two new diesel powertrains: the 3.0-liter TDCi engine packing a tremendous 380 Nm of torque at 1,800 rpm and 156 ps of power at 3,200 rpm or the 2.5-liter TCDi engine that delivers 143 ps/3,500 rpm and 330 Nm of torque at 1,800 rpm.

While the acceleration/braking test made it easy to believe Ford's claim that the new Ranger is quicker than rivals from standstill to 100 kilometers per hour, it also displayed the strength of the Ranger's brakes consisting of ventilated discs in front and drums at the rear. ABS with EBD is standard in all four Ranger models except the basic 2.5-liter 4x2 MT.

Like a car

That you can drive the new Ranger like a car was further proven in the slalom segment. I could hardly believe that I was driving a pickup as I maneuvered fast around the rows of pylons posted at intervals on the oval track, so sharp and precise was the handling. The short-throw stick shift makes high-speed driving easier while the independent double-wishbone front suspension with torsion bar and bigger dampers enhances driver control and ride comfort.

The NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) level is almost as low as a passenger car's due to the quiet TCDi engine, dual counter-rotating balance shafts that reduce engine shaking, the stiffer frame, improved body and suspension and engine transmission mounts. Moreover, the comfortable, handsome interior with all the amenities and conveniences of a car add to the ambience of upscale refinement.

Impressive

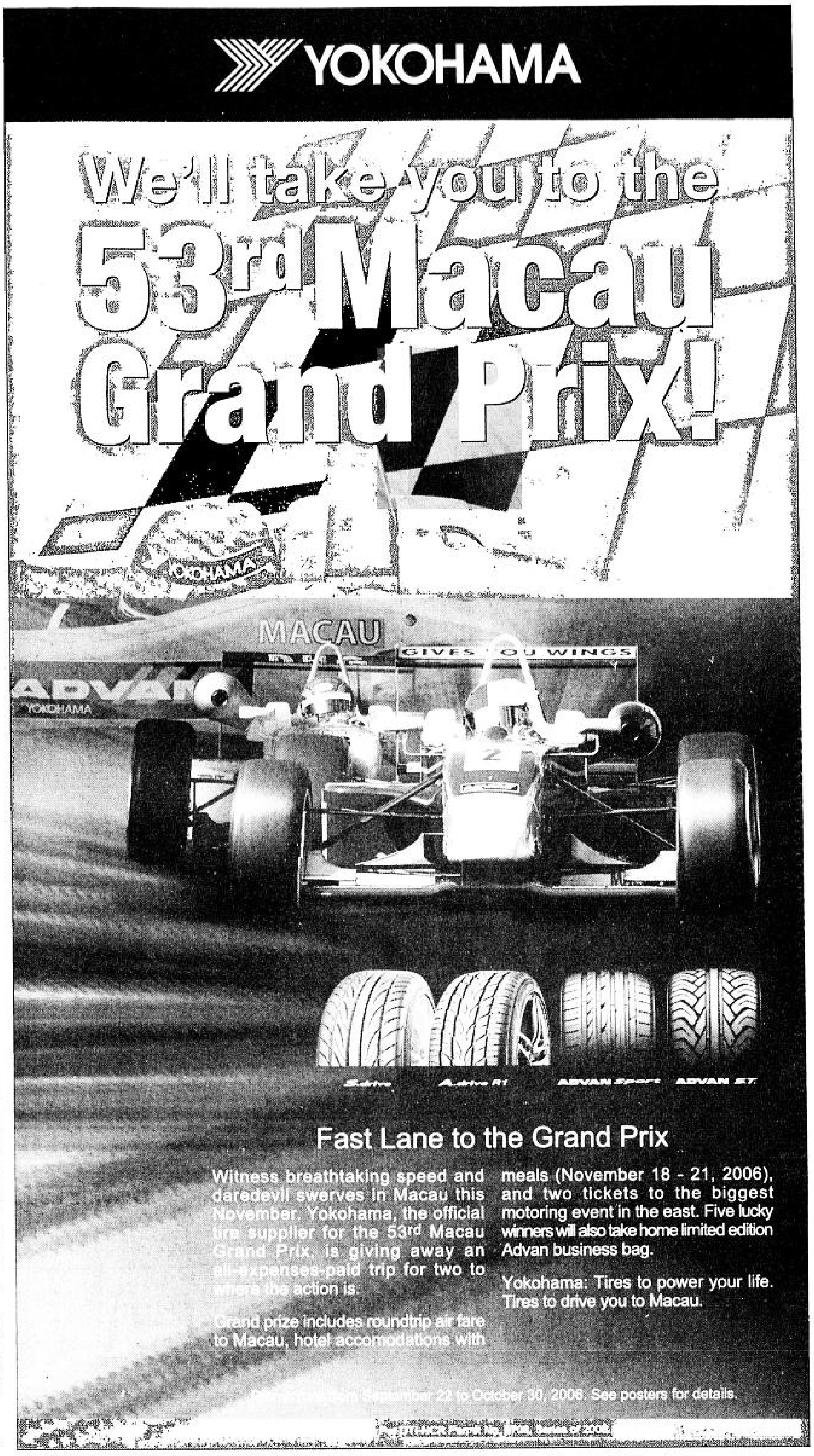
But it was on the off-road course that the 3.0-liter 4x4 MT Ranger was most impressive. With 90 percent of its 380 Nm of peak torque available at just 1,400 rpm, its limited slip differential, ladder frame, high ground clearance, approach, departure and ramp-over angles plus underbody protector designed to traverse obstacles, the Ranger never faltered as it plowed slowly but surely through the muddy patches and river beds, over the slippery slopes, dirt trails, boulders and gravel, up and down treacherous 40-degree-angle mounds. Which proved that on sheer torque alone, the Ranger will climb up and down those steep mounds while the driver steers but does not step on the gas, clutch or brake pedal.

THE DURATORQ 380 TDCi engine packs 380 Nm of torque/1,800 rpm.

Imported from Thailand, the new Ranger does not have a price tag as yet. As to the question which team was the winner, I'd say that at the end of the day the Ranger was the real winner.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: LOVE: 2 vowels, 2 consonants, 2 fools.



Fast Lane to the Grand Prix

Witness breathtaking speed and daredevil swerves in Macau this November. Yokohama, the official tire supplier for the 53rd Macau Grand Prix, is giving away an all-expenses-paid trip for two to where the action is.

Grand prize includes roundtrip air fare to Macau, hotel accomodations with meals (November 18 - 21, 2006), and two tickets to the biggest motoring event in the east. Five lucky winners will also take home limited edition Advan business bag.

Yokohama: Tires to power your life. Tires to drive you to Macau.

Promo runs from September 22 to October 30, 2006. See posters for details.

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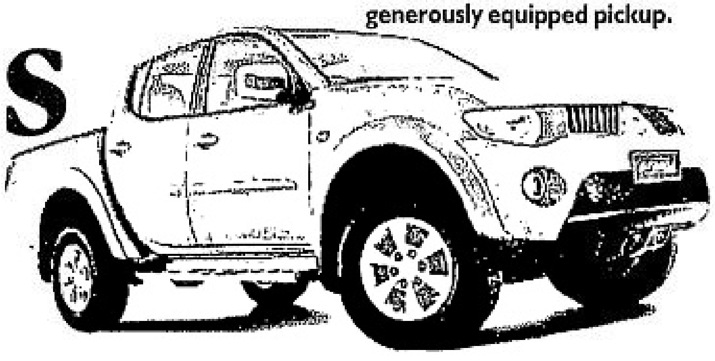
MITSUBISHI has reinvented the Strada as a sexy, stylish and generously equipped pickup.

Sexy pickups are back



By Charles E. Buban

TO BORROW FROM POP sensation Justin Timberlake's hit song, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines is bringing sexy back with the introduction of the new generation Strada 4x4 pickup.

When today, being rugged and utilitarian has come to define pickups, Mitsubishi decided to give the all-new Strada 4x4 a gorgeous profile that is both unique and somehow deceptive.

"With the completely redesigned Strada, we hope to once again dominate the country's 4x4 pickup market," said Arlan Reyes of MMPC, in reference to the previous Strada's feat, in which, after entering the market in 1997, became the best-selling 4x4 pickup for seven consecutive years.

Radical styling

The radical styling of the new Strada is very evident from its bold front mask to the bulging fenders that evoke clear visual links to its rally bred cousin, the Mitsubishi's Pajero Evolution.

"From the outside, the new Strada features parting lines as well as roofline that appear to cradle the cabin. Combined with the swooping arc at the base of the rear doors (or curved side lines for the cargo bed), they all create fresh styling that retains attraction over time," Reyes described.

But don't be fooled by the new Strada's fluid lines: this pickup is also built to perform.

Powered by a 134-horsepower, 2.5 liter, turbocharged-intercooled diesel engine (mated to either a 5-speed transmission or to a 4-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission), the Strada has ample power under the hood to go head-to-head with the other burly pickups in the market today.

Easy Select 4WD

The new Strada also features an "Easy Select" four-wheel-drive system that allows its driver to switch between 2WD and 4WD on the fly even while traveling at speeds up to 100 kph.

The new Strada has grown—150 mm more for interior length, 60 mm more rear legroom, 25 mm more front headroom and 13 mm more rear headroom—giving its passengers added room and comfort.

And with more space, MMPC decided to provide the new Strada (in the GLS variant) top-of-its-class comfort and conveniences including all-power amenities, three-mode opening slide vent window, high-grade sport-type fabric seats, leather wrapped steering wheel and shift knobs, molded door trims with silver accent power control panel, automatic climate control system, and a multiinformation display monitor.

Enhanced safety

For a pickup, the safety system on the new Strada is commendable indeed: built using Mitsubishi's exclusive reinforced impact safety evolution frame, the pickup incorporates front and rear crumple zones with reinforced beams to absorb collision force and direct it away from the passenger cabin.

"The new Strada is also equipped with an antilock brake system with electronic brakeforce distribution that will prevent the wheels from locking up during emergency brakes as well as determine which wheels would provide maximum braking in whatever road condition and reward the driver with a more precise and effective braking ability," Reyes explained.

He added that dual supplemental restraint systems front airbags, antitrapping power windows, and tailgate mounted third brake lamp are standard on both variants of the new Strada, the GLS and GLX.

Meanwhile, the entry-level GLX (P1.050 million) is only available in manual transmission while the GLS, will be both be available in manual (P1.2 million) and automatic (P1.250 million) transmissions.

Alonso, Mild Seven Renault world champions

ALONSO

IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR Fernando Alonso and the Mild Seven Renault Formula One (F1) Team, successfully defending both the driver's and constructors' titles for the 2006 season.

Ferrari's Felipe Massa was able to record his first win on his home soil, but second place for Alonso was certainly enough for a back-to-back championship for the Spaniard and the Renault F1 team. This race also marks the end of the Michael Schumacher era in Formula One.

Dramatic finale

The Brazilian Grand Prix was a dramatic finale for the 2006 season. Before the race, the tension was heavy at Interlagos, with the Ferrari of Massa on pole, Alonso in 4th, and Schumacher way back 10th after a fuel pump failure in qualifying. The pressure was on the Renault F1 team to ensure title victory with minimal risks, relying on the reliability of their machinery.

The German was quick at the start, running wheel-to-wheel against the BMWs after a few corners on the first lap, while Giancarlo Fisichella was able to grab 5th place away from the Honda of Barrichello. Soon, Schumacher was also able to get ahead of Barrichello, just as Nico Rosberg's Williams crashed into the wall with a missing nose wing after an incident with his teammate Webber. This prompted the safety car to be deployed for a couple of laps.

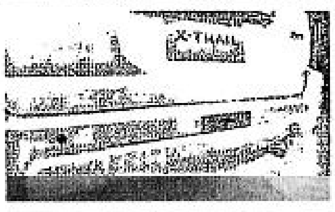
A few laps later, both the Toyotas retired from the race, and Raikkonen took over Trulli's second place, with Alonso running third. During the first round of pits, Alonso was able to steal second place away from the McLaren. He defended his position from the Honda of Jenson Button in 3rd. Meanwhile, Schumacher was fired up and was setting up a series of incredible laps and was soon chasing Fisichella with 10 laps remaining in the race. The Italian was forced into a mistake by locking his tires and running wide, letting the Ferrari slip through. Schumacher homed in on Raikkonen and grabbed fourth place from the Finn.

Double world champ

Meanwhile, Fernando Alonso did exactly what he was supposed to do—drive a clean race, keep out of trouble and score points to make him Formula One's youngest double world champion. The Spaniard's consistency and the reliability of the R26 enabled him to clinch his second driver's title.

"What a wonderful feeling this is. We have done a fantastic last part of the championship, scoring 26 points out of 30 possible," Alonso said after the race, "and that was enough to make us double champions. It is such a special moment to win both titles on the same day, and the atmosphere in the team is unbelievable right now."

Michael Schumacher was able to drive a stunning farewell race in Brazil, finishing fourth behind Jenson Button. Felipe Massa is the first Brazilian to win his home race since Ayrton Senna's victory back in 1993. The Renaults finished second and sixth, which ensured the Mild Seven Renault F1 team the constructors' trophy with 206 points against Ferrari's 200. This race marked a glorious triumph for Alonso and the Renault F1 team.



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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

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- **Be a** villain/C2
- **Have a DIY** Halloween /D3

Thrills and chills

[illegible]

What scares you the most?

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondents
Photos by Konrad Ong

IN HORROR FLICKS, ACTORS need to pop their eyeballs, crumple their face and scream their lungs out to scare the bejeesus out of you. But, in real life, what do you really find frightening?

The thought of losing someone I really care about... and cockroaches.—**Rafael Rossell**

When I get a really bad dream and when I wake up it's all dark. I ask my *yaya* to sleep in my room with me because I won't be able to go back to sleep. —**Mariel Rodriguez**

LUKE Jickain

Ghosts! I've never seen any but the thought of them scares me *talaga*. —**Geneva Cruz**

There's one part in "Shake, Rattle and Roll" where the *tiyanak* bit Janice de Belen and she acted so good that for a time I was scared of little kids, because they might bite me.—**Luke Jickain**

NIKKI Gil

Dead people. Wakes, funerals, corpses, anything that has to do with dead people!—**Nikki Gil**

My *tita* and *tito*. Hahahahaha. *Siguro po kung makakita ako ng batang multo.*—**Gian Carlos**

Being buried alive.—**Will Devaughn**

I'm scared of the boogeyman! Hehe.—**Iwa Moto**

Scary ghost stories always freak me out. But I'm addicted to listening to them and scaring myself.—**Nancy Castiglione**

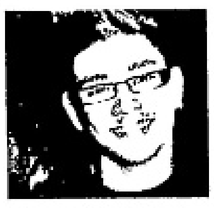
BRAD Turvey

Spiders scare me the most.—**Brad Turvey**

I go out of my way to avoid scary movies! The worst part of the movie always finds its way back to me at 3 a.m. and ends up on replay, making me wonder "what was that?" at every night sound I hear.—**Maike Evers**

MAIKE Evers

Death of any member of the family. But I also have *babaw* answer: "Snakes on a Plane" and Samuel L. Jackson. —**Drew Arellano**



DREW Arellano

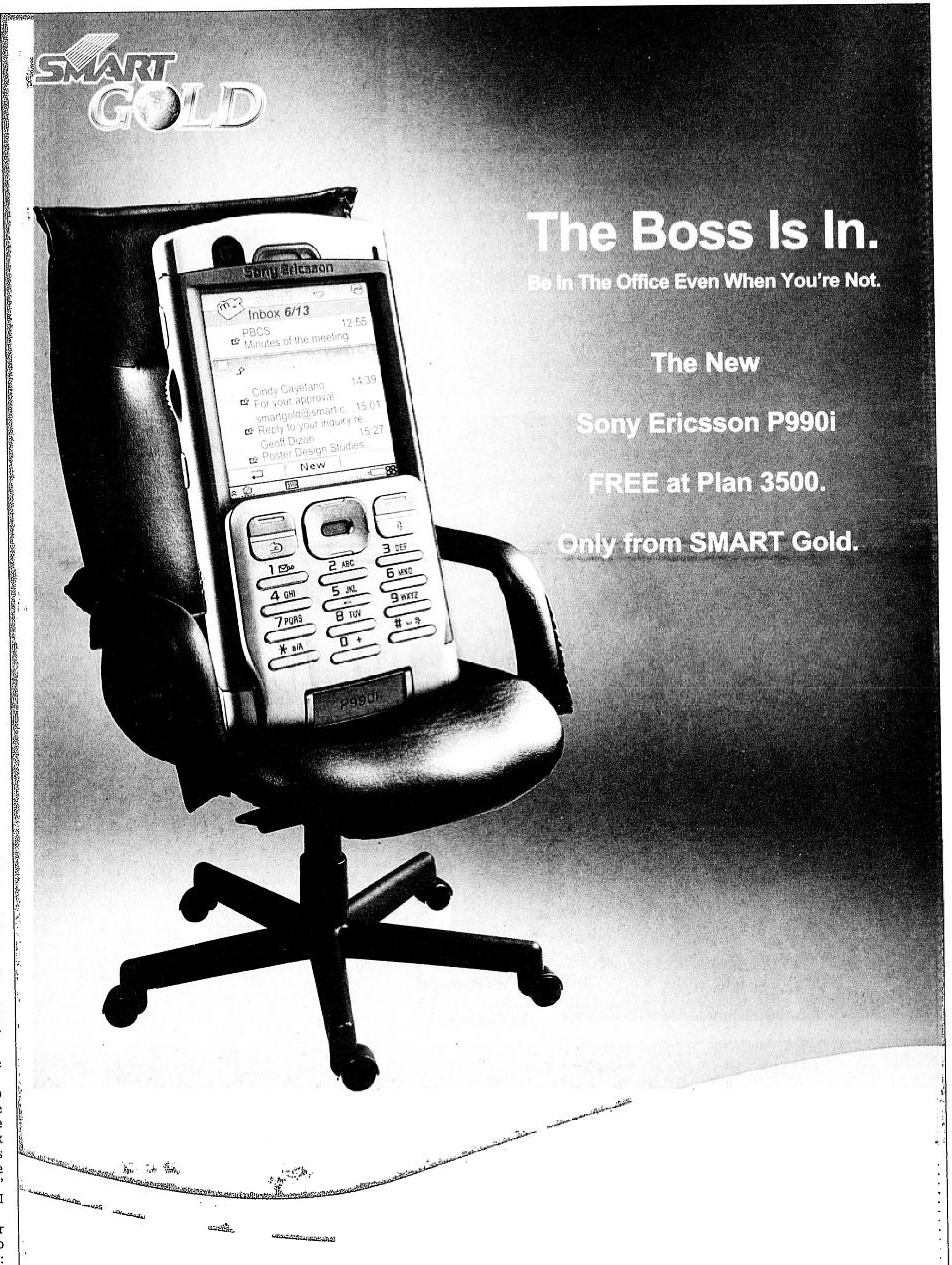
Bats scare the hell out of me.—**Derek Ramsay**

JM Rodriguez

I grew up in the province where I got used to my *yaya* scaring me, saying if I didn't go to sleep the *kapre* would eat me. I believed her so much I'd run and hide under my sheets. Then one day, I realized it was a big lie and that I could never trust her again. Since then, monsters have never scared me. It's people who lie that I get scared of. They're more horrifying than the *kapre*.—**JM Rodriguez**

Gangsters in Los Angeles.—**Juddah Paolo**

Inflation and alien abduction.—**Kelly Misa**



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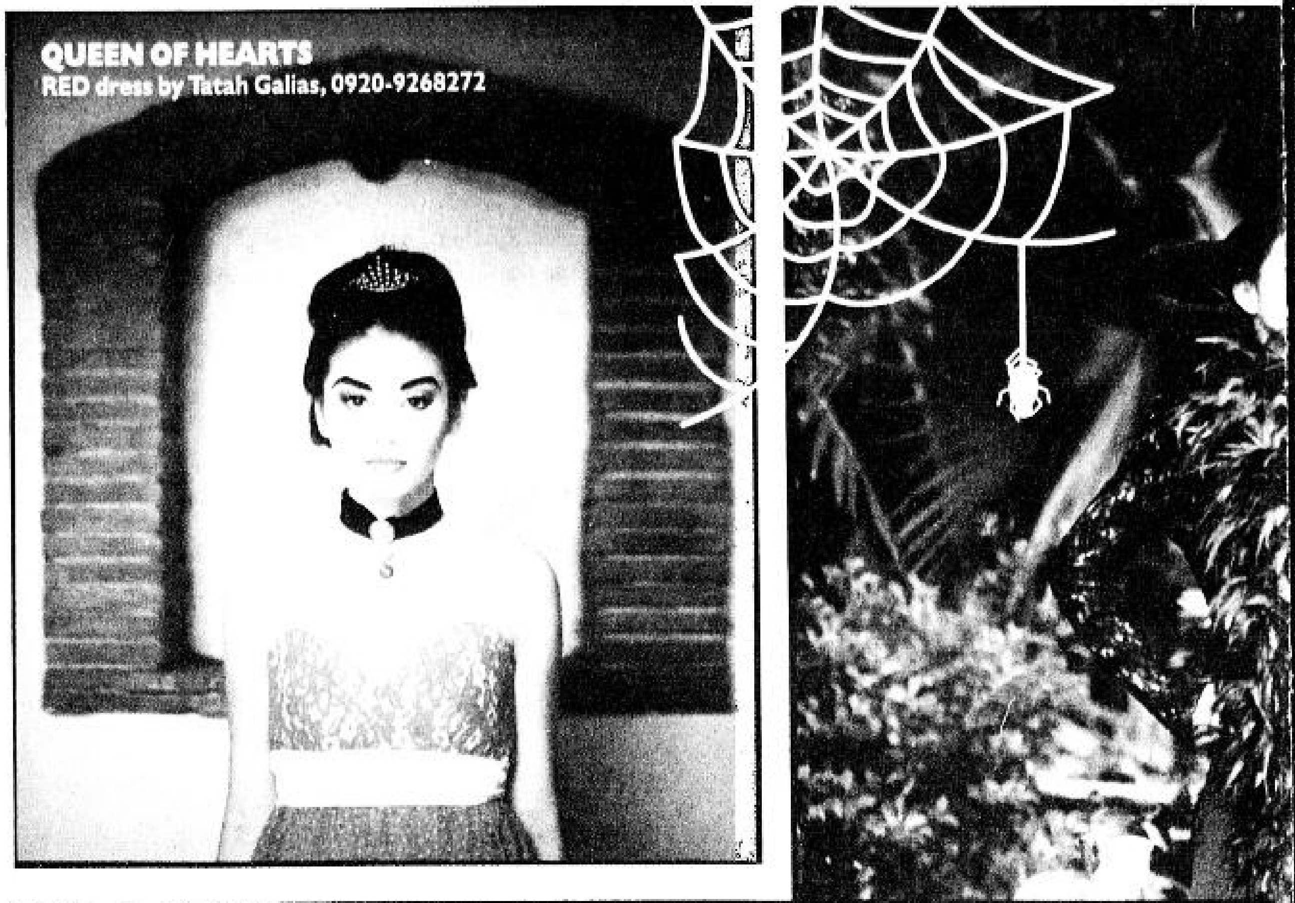
DITO SA SMART TAYO

CRUELLA DE VIL
BLACK-AND-WHITE corset and skirt by Tatah Galias



QUEEN OF HEARTS
RED dress by Tatah Galias, 0920-9268272

URSULA
BLUE corset and skirt, stylist's own

Be the villain!

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jake Verzosa

SOMETIMES, IT'S FUN TO BE the bad guy. Villains always have the most vicious one-liners, are feared by everyone and always have the most interesting outfits.

You can always tell who the villain is—just look for the dark, majestic clothes and unnatural eye and skin colors.

In some cases, villains have become more famous because their personalities are more distinctive compared to their goody-goody counterparts.

Everyone is familiar with Cherie Gil's classic line "You're nothing but a second rate, trying-hard copycat," but who has ever quoted Sharon Cuneta's character from the movie?

Darth Vader, in spite of (or maybe because of) all his heinous acts, has become one of the most famous characters in filmdom. Cruella de Vil, the larger-than-life villain of "101 Dalmatians," is probably the only character people remember from the film, aside from the cute dalmatians.

Once in a while, to break the monotony of routine, go out and get dressed as the epitome of all things evil.

JADIS OF NARNIA
WHITE gown by Tatah Galias

This Halloween, instead of dressing up as a plain witch or fairy, why don't you go out as an iconic bad guy? There are lots of villains to choose from: superhero villains, Disney villains and real-life villains. Every hero has a nemesis, so just think of your favorite character and choose his or her archenemy.

It's funny how real-life villains are so much worse than fictional ones. Sure, fictional bad guys might snicker and sneer and plan to annihilate humanity with a single button (Dr. Evil, anyone?) but for some reason, they always target just one area: take Gotham City, which seems to have the greatest concentration of villains: Joker, Penguin, Two-Face, Poison Ivy, Catwoman and Riddler. Also, they're upfront about their intentions ("I will destroy the world and get everyone's money!").

Real-life villains aren't as honest. They hem and haw about annihilating other countries in order to save their own, or show compassionate faces to the people they're about to destroy. Cartoon villains are at least somewhat honest, but real-life villains aren't.

Dress up

The point is, if you must be a villain, get it out of your system on Halloween. Dress up, paint your face, cackle like a hag, feel every inch of it when you go out. But don't take it any further than that, and definitely do not become a real-life villain yourself, or no one will give you any candy for that.

Want to look perfectly evil on Halloween? According to Jigs Mayuga, head makeup artist of L'Oreal Philippines: "Villains are usually characterized by strong, angular features that have an almost exaggerated quality to them such as big hair, thick arched brows, strong cheekbones or a big nose. To achieve this look, I suggest using a lot of highlighting and contouring techniques to alter the look of the person's bone structure. For makeup colors, use loud, bold shades which are intimidating and scary at the same time."

Makeup artist Tatin Yang added: "The fastest way to look sinister is through the brows. A sharp, thick, super black arch will instantly give your face the menacing quality that is sure to make people steer clear of you. Add a well-defined blood-red lip and sharply contoured cheeks and you're ready to do battle."

Villains always wear distinctive clothing, so opt for grand, sweepin Your color palette shoul roon, purple and brow ceptable. And unless yo pink and yellow, stay aw do put on your dark leat

During this shoot, models, started laughi typical, truly villainous throughout the entire mood, and everyone jo

Jigs, who used to ac trademark cackle whil

His advice to readers? attitude, so make sure y if you want to be a villain

E-mail the autho yahoo.com

Trick or TV treats

ANIMAX WANTS TO GIVE YOU AN unforgettable Halloween. And they're doing it with a big dose of cyborgs, androids and a girl lost in hell.

"Ghost in the Shell: Innocence"

On Oct. 28, 9:30 p.m., check out "Ghost in the Shell: Innocence," a critically acclaimed sequel to writer/director Mamoru Oshii's 1995 cult hit "Ghost in the Shell." It was also a finalist for the coveted Palme D'Or award at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival.

The film is set in 2032 when the line between humans and machines has been irreversibly blurred. Humans have forfeited their humanity as they now coexist with the cyborgs and androids they have created.

Batou is a detective working for the government's covert antiterrorist unit, Public Security Section 9. He is a cyborg, his body is artificial and the only remnants of his humanity are traces of his brain, and the memories of a woman called Motoko Kusanagi.

When a gynoid (a female android created to provide sexual companionship) malfunctions and kills her owner, Batou is assigned to look into the murder. But the deeper he delves into his investigation, the more unanswered questions he uncovers—questions about humanity and its need to immortalize everything in dolls.

"GIRL from Hell"

In a world that has forgotten to be human, a solitary cyborg who desperately clings to what remains of his humanity goes in search of answers to the shocking truth behind the crime—and possibly the meaning of life.

"Girl from Hell"

Oct. 31 is the chosen night for the special one-hour special premiere of "Girl from Hell" (its regular time-slot is every Friday at 11:30 p.m.).

"Girl from Hell" revolves around this idea: there is easy revenge for evil deeds, but it has a steep price. You pay with your soul.

SKELETON tormentor

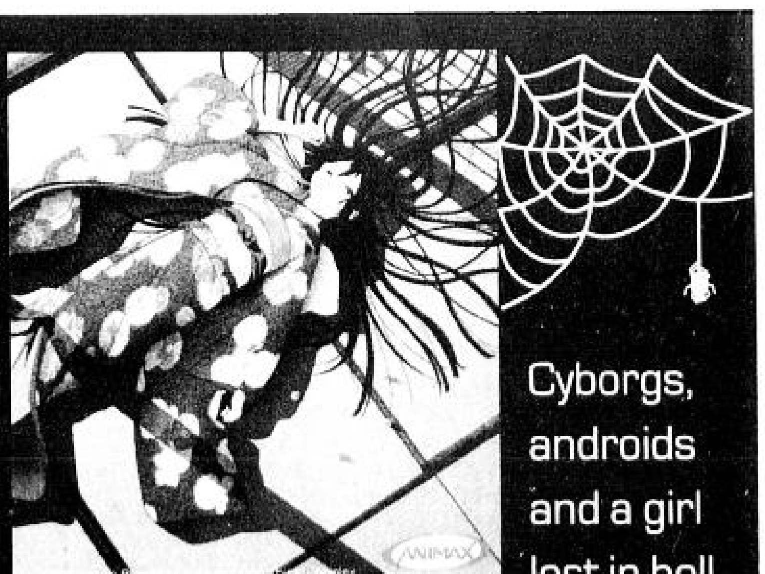
Urban legend has it that if you post your grudge on a mysterious web page at the stroke of midnight, Enma Ai—a young, pale girl known as the "Girl from Hell"—will come offering you a straw doll with a string around its neck.

Untie the string and she will drag your tormentor down to hell. But only if you first agree to her terms: that you, too, shall spend eternity in hell after you die. And she gives you a little preview first.

With three partners to torment captives—a young man with an all-seeing eye, a beautiful and seductive woman who is really a skeleton in disguise and a demon masquerading as an old man—Enma Ai controls the gateway to hell, and in her realm of terror, reminds us that justice is never clean and clear.

Intelligent and surprisingly sensitive, "Girl from Hell" is reminiscent of everyday evils in the world and a study in creative extremes, with fantastically beautiful yet eerily terrifying pictures. This dark psychological suspense series is like nothing you've experienced before!

Visit www.animax-asia.com



HAVE a scary animè adventure this Halloween.

Cyborgs, androids and a girl lost in hell invade your boob tubes this Halloween, thanks to Animax

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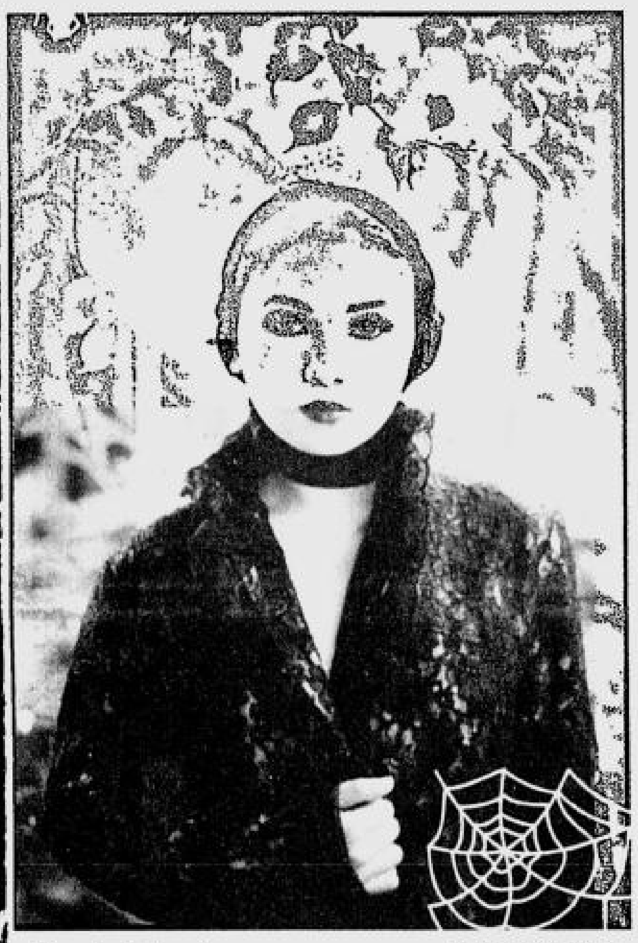
MALEFICENT
Purple gown, P1,495, X, jacket and feather boa, stylist's own



EVIL QUEEN
JACKET, stylist's own

clothes in dark colors.
include red, black, ma-
. Acid green is also ac-
find an iconic villain in
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er and velvet.
Geolette, one of the
g like a hag—a stereo-
cackle that resounded
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ned in.
in theater, did his own
doing makeup.
"In the end, it's all about
u're always in character
for Halloween."

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MAKEUP AND SKINCARE BY JIGS MAYUGA
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Ghosts . . .

From page C4

Humor and laughter come by as the strong and talented ensemble hams it up to effectively portray the not-so-strong and not-so-talented fledgling "actors" who go through the paces of their hokey musical numbers (choreographed by Novy Bereber) and overly melodramatic scenes.

It's a treat to see the entire cast switch effortlessly from comedy to serious drama and back again.

The audience watches the "rehearsals" unfold to find out if there really is a ghost in the toilet. Along the way, they see how the amateur theater group grapples with their own personal skeletons in the closet: specters of mistrust, fading memories of the past, phantoms of disillusionment, the ephemeral nature of hope, and the ever-present and hanging shadow of death.

At the core of it all is a love triangle brilliantly threshed out by Ronnie Lazaro (alternated by Nonie Buencamino), Irma Adlawan-Marasigan and Mailes Kanapi. These three theater veterans anchor the show with their highly nuanced and sensitive characterizations.

Playwright Chong Wishing flew in specially to direct this staging as part of the commemoration of 50 years of Philippines-Japan diplomatic relations, with support from the Japan Foundation Manila Office and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The regular run will be held at the CCP's intimate Tanghalang Huseng Batute (Studio Theater) Nov. 10-26.

For details, call Tanghalang Pilipino at 8323661 or 8321125 loc. 1620 or 1621

Local comic horror book terrifies

By Ces Cabangon
2bU! Correspondent

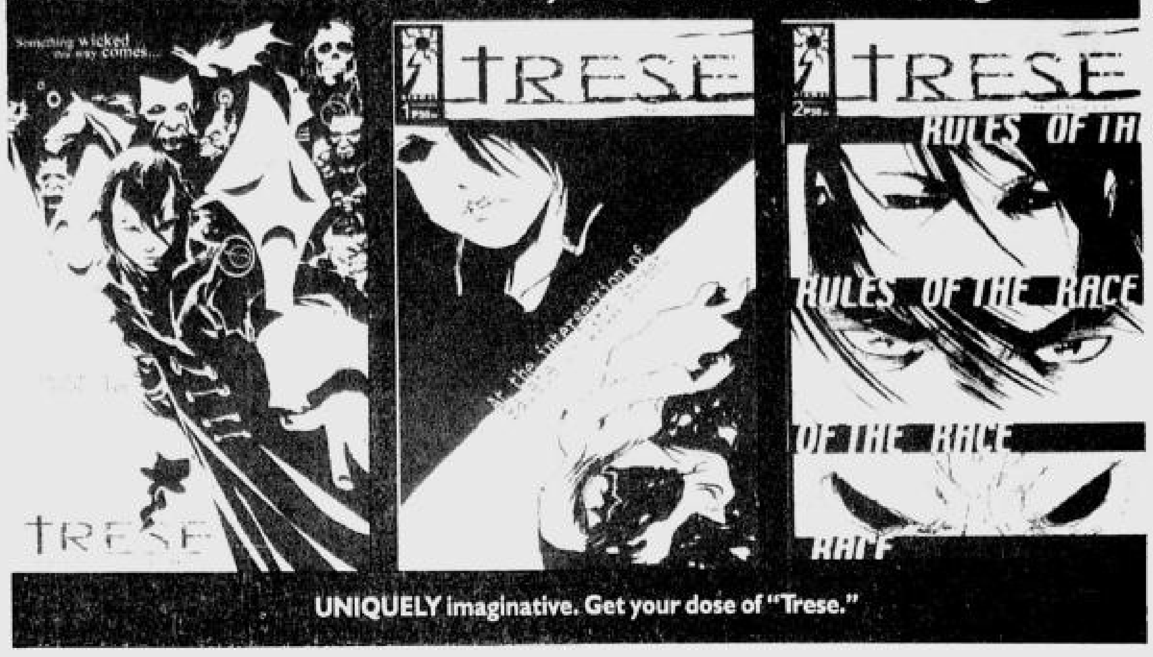
IN UNDERWORLD MANILA, *ASWANGS*, *KAPRES* and *engkantos* run syndicate rings. Possessing powers and sinister secrets, Alexandra Trese walks between our world and the supernatural in order to check those syndicates.

Aided by twin brothers donned in theater masks, and herself wielding a *kris* knife, Alexandra possesses uncanny and clever tactics and her uncompromising nature allows her to solve bizarre crimes and bring justice in ways no ordinary human can.

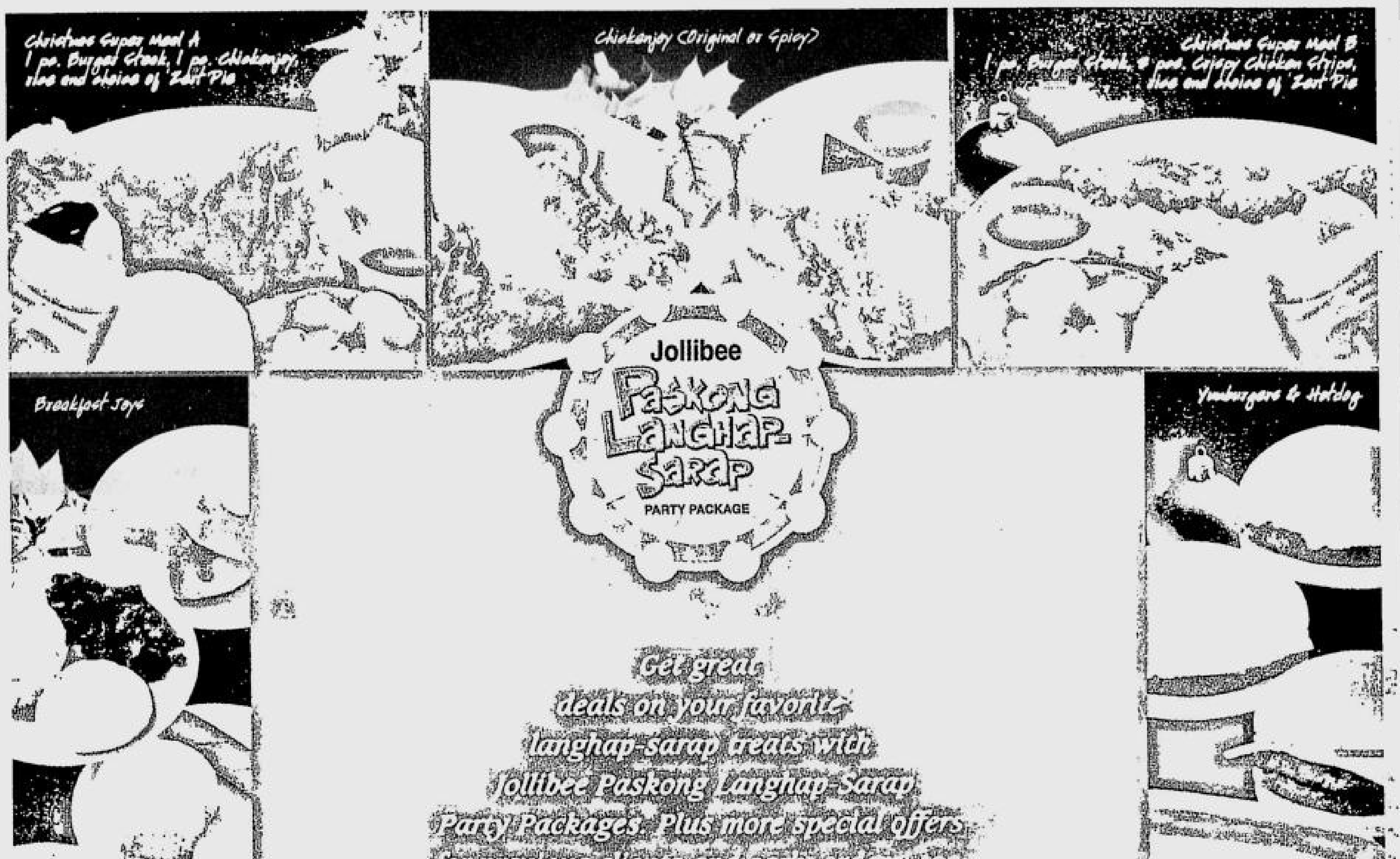
It has been a while since the local comic book scene came out with something uniquely imaginative as "Trese." It fuses Filipino folklore, fantasy and urban grit through engaging storylines and strong characters. What makes "Trese" absorbing is its art, wit and narrative. Ka-Jo Baldisimo's black-and-white artwork creates a haunting and nostalgic mood of wicked sorcery. If you pay attention, you'll appreciate the allusions and the social satire. Budjette Tan explores Filipino pop culture and urban legends and myths. Things just keep on getting better.

"Trese" is available at Comic Quest (SM Megamall), Comics Odysessy (Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place) and Druid's Keep (Magallanes). Visit www.tresekomix.blogspot.com

'Trese' combines Pinoy folklore and urban edge



UNIQUELY imaginative. Get your dose of "Trese."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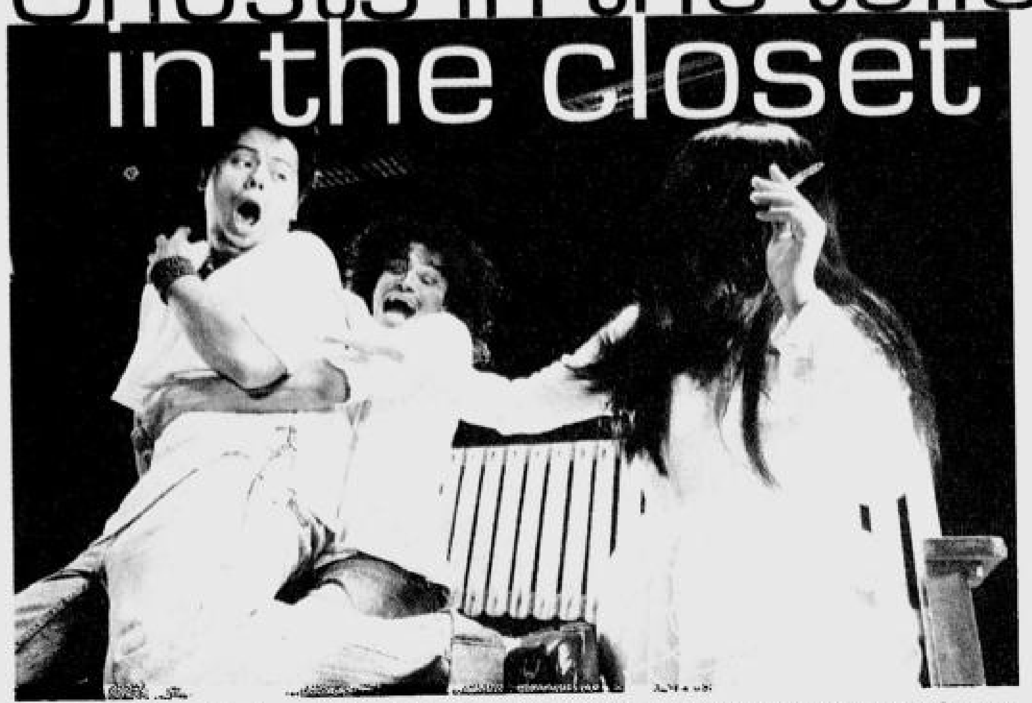
Ghosts in the toilet, skeletons in the closet



PAOLO O'Hara as Esting and Bong Cabrera as Raul are two members of the amateur theater group staging "The Ghost in the Toilet" in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Bakeretta."

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

THIS HALLOWEEN, you can opt to explore haunted, dingy bathrooms or you can just take a trip to a darkened theater situated in the basement of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Nope, no cobwebs and coffins here, only Tanghalang Pilipino's staging of "Bakeretta (Ghost Operetta)," a Filipino translation of a Japanese play that deals with an amateur theater company as they rehearse a ghost (*bake*) story called "The Ghost in the Toilet."

In this horror-comedy-musical-drama, fans of Japanese horror movies like "Ring" and "The Grudge" will certainly enjoy the way this production pokes fun at the recently popular movie genre. For example, a gaggle of Sadako-wannabees make an appearance. However, they share the stage with one of our very own *manananggals*.

In a recent preview held at lighting designer Shoko Matsumoto's Sinag Arts Studio, the production's pacing even seemed to mimic the halting rhythms of a suspense-thriller.

As the play was originally written in a provincial dialect of Japan, this Manila production transplants the action to Cebu in an attempt to retain the rustic flavor of the characters (the Filipino translation is by Liza Magtoto).

GHOSTS/ C2

WENAH Nagales as Claudette and Randy Villarama as Jas encounter a ghost.

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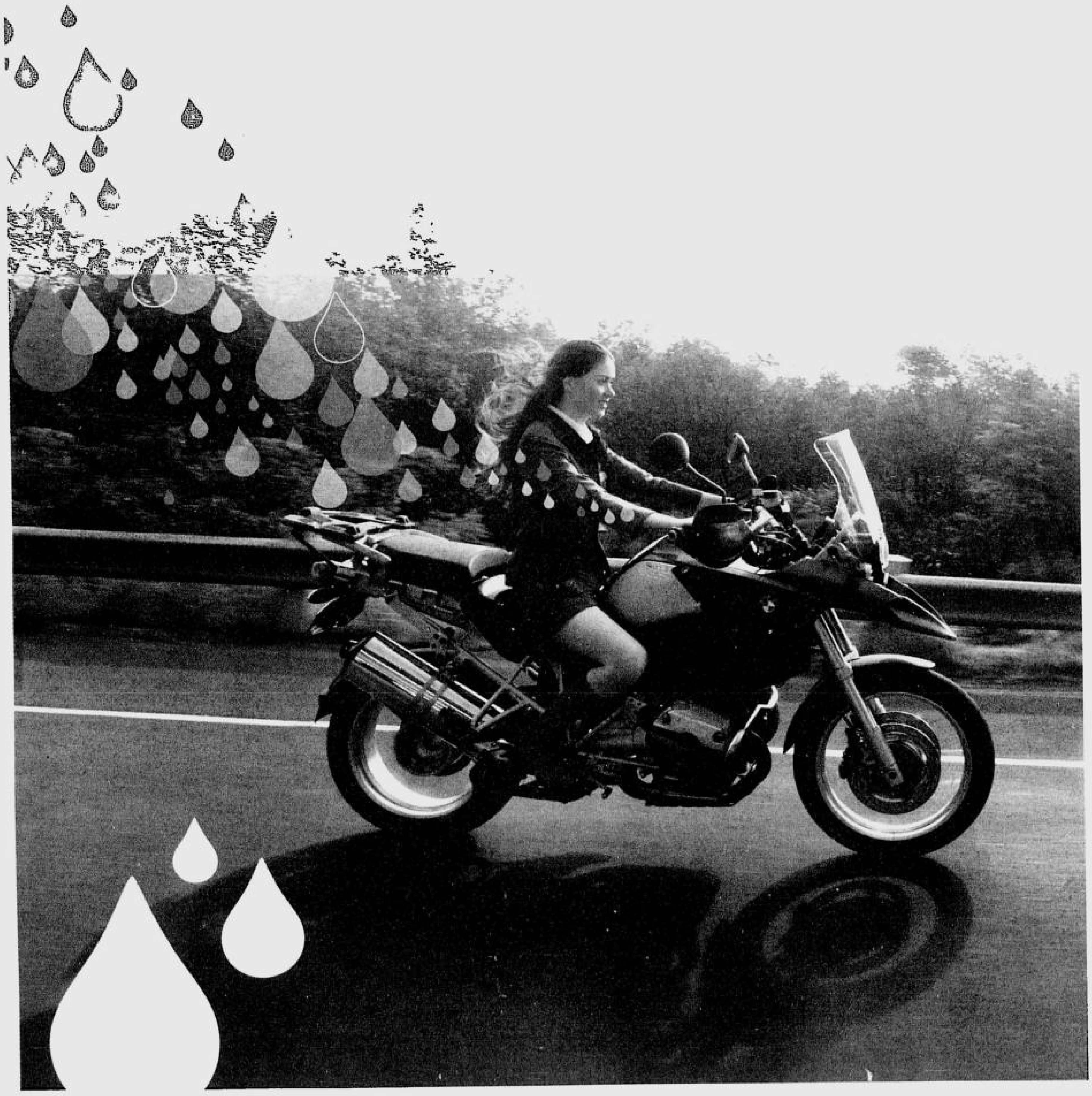

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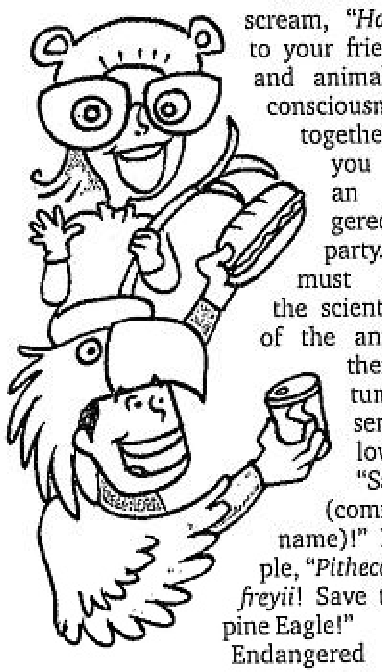
Halloween party madness

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

SO YOU'RE TIRED OF THE same old Halloween party themes where everyone puts red lipstick on his or her chin and runs around screaming, "Blood! I have blood running down my chin!"

Pretending to be monsters, vampires, fairies and pirates sure is a fun way for us to let our hair down, but they can get a little trite. For a change this year, try some of these alternative themes.

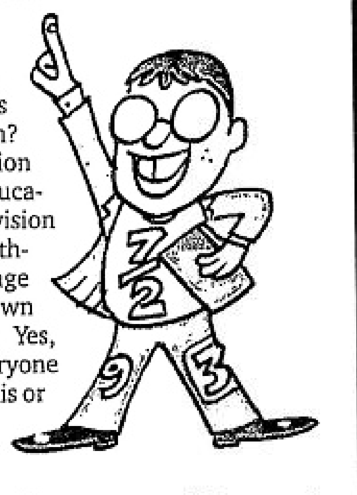
Run, Tagpi, run!



Want the chance to scream, "*Hayop ka!*" to your friends? Fun and animal welfare consciousness come together when you organize an endangered-species party. Guests must announce the scientific name of the animal that their costume represents, followed by "Save the (common name)!" For example, "*Pithecophaga jeffreyii*! Save the Philippine Eagle!"

Endangered human species like "honest politician" or "intelligent person" are not allowed. As a twist, you can just have a cartoon-animals-only party where your *barkada* must have a theme, such as Sanrio characters, Disney characters or Hanna-Barbera characters. Use of real animal skin, fur, feathers, scales and what-have-you is strictly prohibited.

Your days are numbered



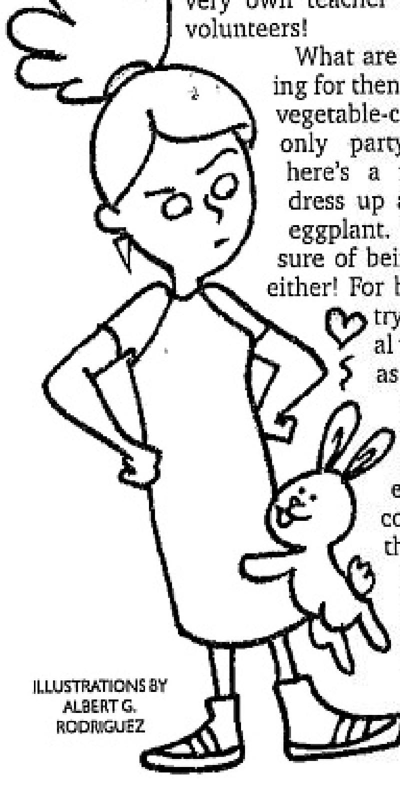
Mathletes of the world, unite! Who says braniacs can't have fun? Get inspiration from the educational television show "Mathtinik" and stage your very own fraction party. Yes, fractions! Everyone must come as his or her favorite fraction. Wear it on your head, splash it across your shirt, come in color-coded patches where one color is the numerator and the other color is the denominator—the possibilities are endless!

Keep the non-math fans at bay by requesting people to reduce their costume's fraction to the equivalent lowest term. If they can't compute, they're not true math fans.

Attack of the killer tomatoes

Admit it, whenever you see little preschool children dressed up as vegetables for their classroom play on healthy foods, deep down inside your heart of hearts, there is a little quivering tinge of regret. Oh, how you wish you had raised your hand all those years ago when your very own teacher asked for volunteers!

What are you waiting for then? Throw a vegetable-costumes-only party. Finally, here's a reason to dress up as a giant eggplant. No pressure of being graded either! For bonus fun, try using real vegetables as part of your costume. You can start eating your costume in the middle of the party and scream, "I'm becoming a cannibal!"



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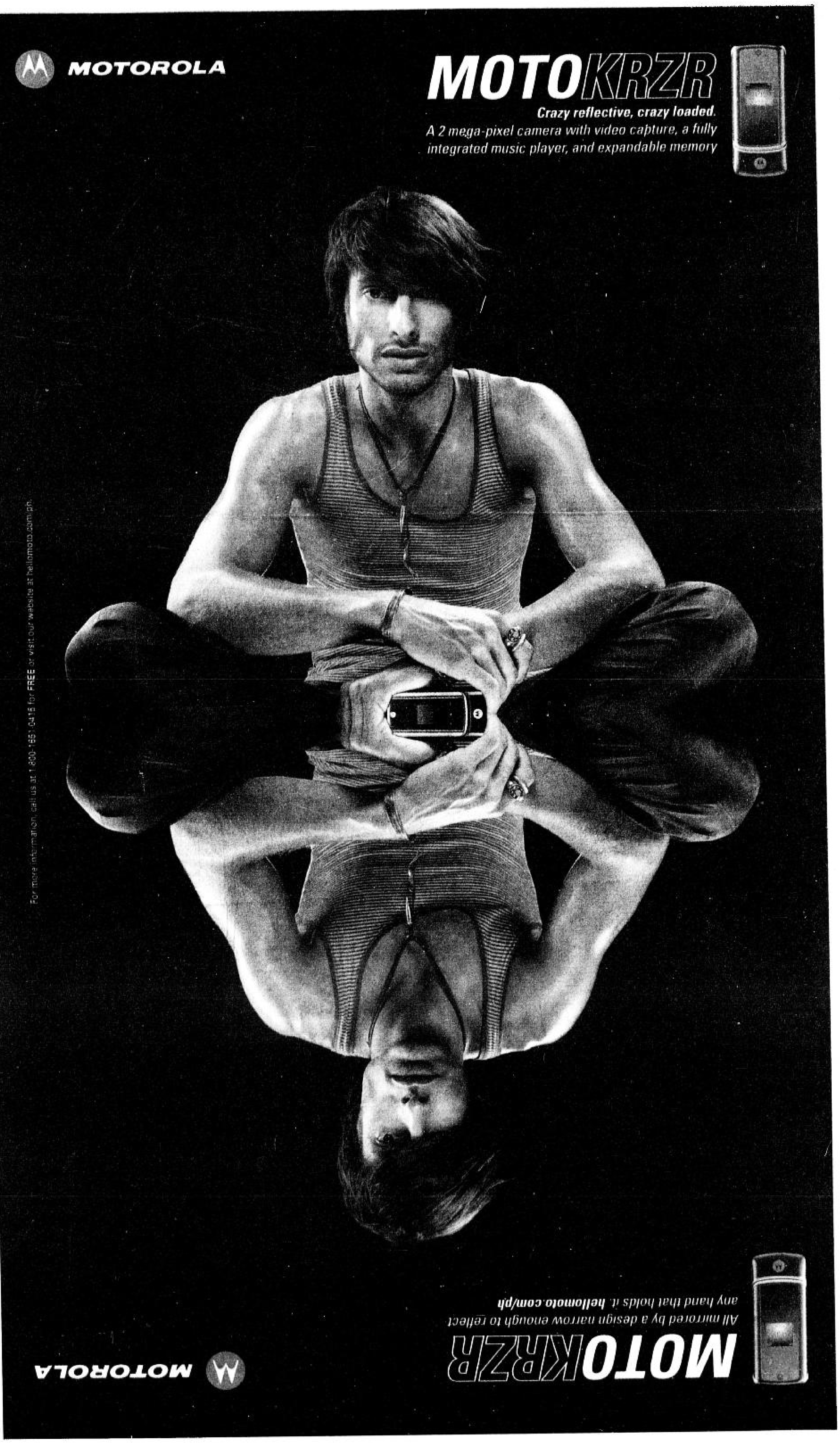

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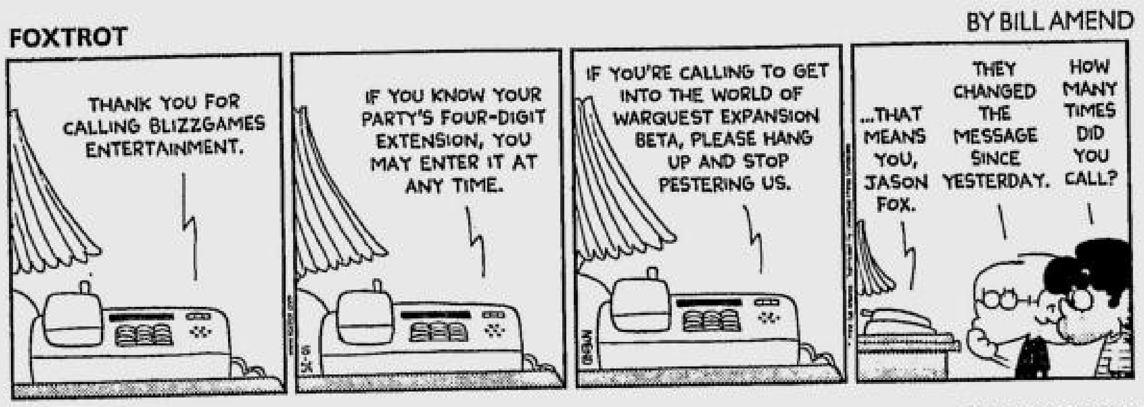
BY BILL AMEND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A. LIPIN

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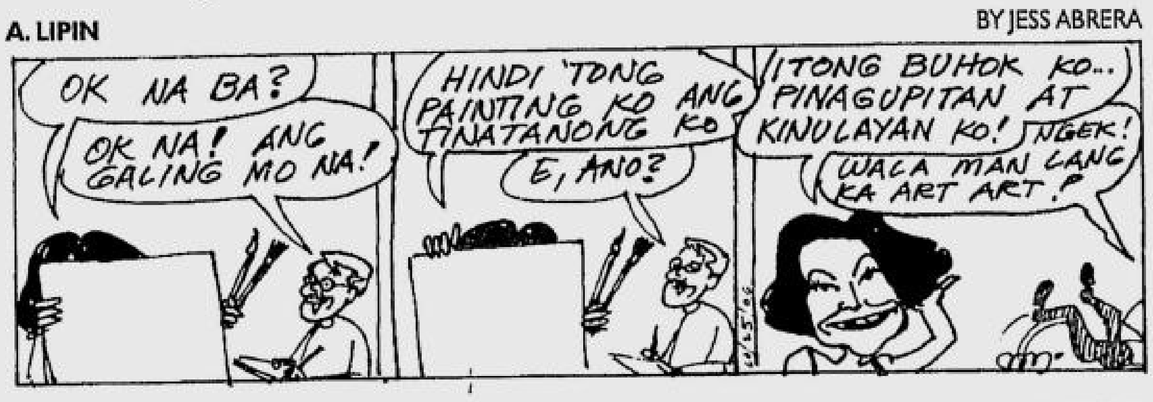
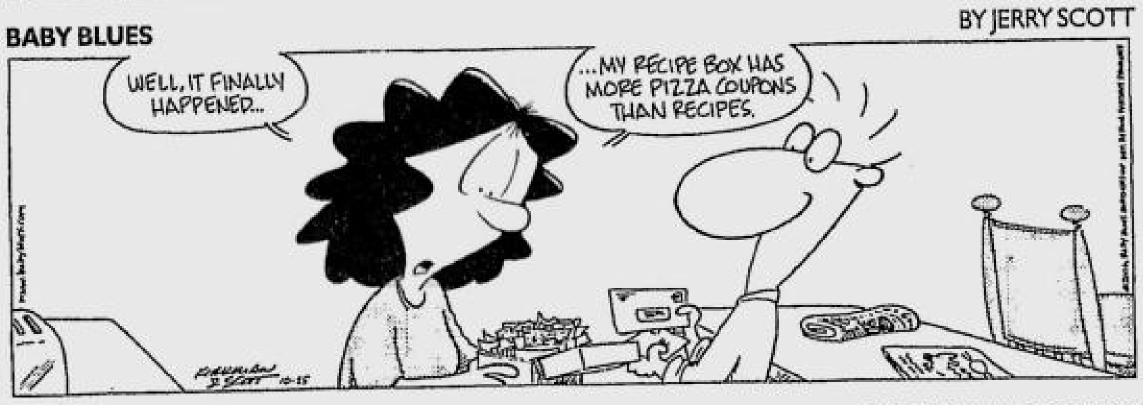

OK NA BA?
OK NA! ANG GALING MO NA!
HINDI 'TONG PAINTING KO ANG TINATANONG KO
E, ANO?
ITONG BUHOK KO... PINAGUPITAN AT KINULAYAN KO!
NGEK!
WALA MAN LANG KA ART ART!

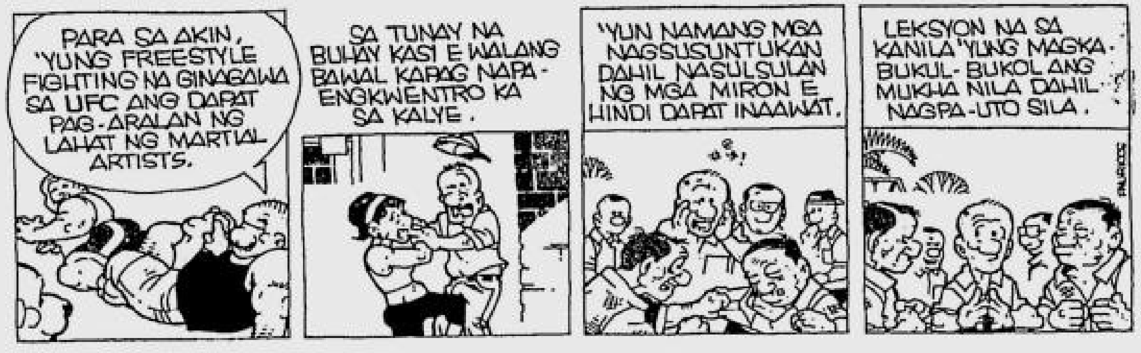
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WELL, IT FINALLY HAPPENED...
...MY RECIPE BOX HAS MORE PIZZA COUPONS THAN RECIPES.

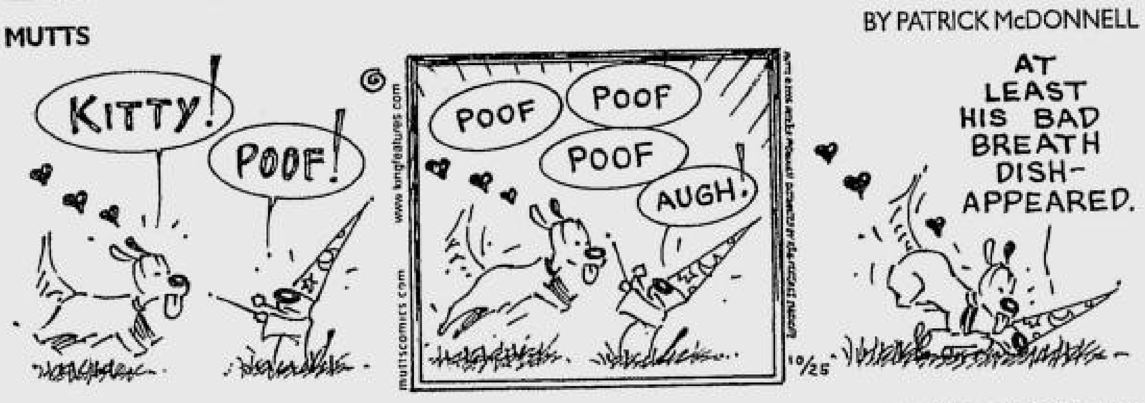
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PARA SA AKIN, 'YUNG FREESTYLE FIGHTING NA GINAGAWA SA UFC ANG DAPAT PAG-ARALAN NG LAHAT NG MARTIAL ARTISTS.
SA TUNAY NA BUHAY KASI E WALANG BAWAL KAPAG NAPA-ENGKWENTRO KA SA KALYE.
'YUN NAMANG MGA NAGSUSUNTUKAN DAHIL NASULSULAN NG MGA MIRON E HINDI DAPAT INAAWAT.
LEKSYON NA SA KANILA 'YUNG MAGKA-BUKOL-BUKOL ANG MUKHA NILA DAHIL NAGPA-UTO SILA.

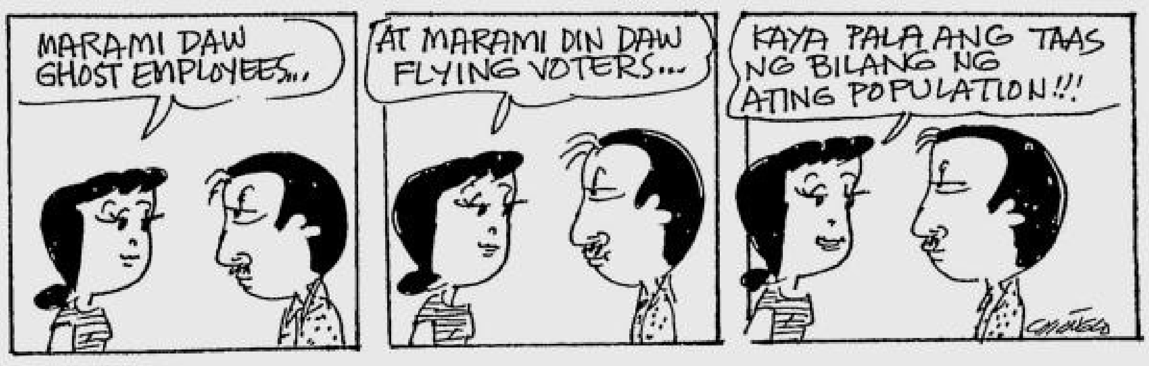
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


KITTY!
POOF!
POOF
POOF
POOF
AUGH!
AT LEAST HIS BAD BREATH DISH-APPEARED.
10/25

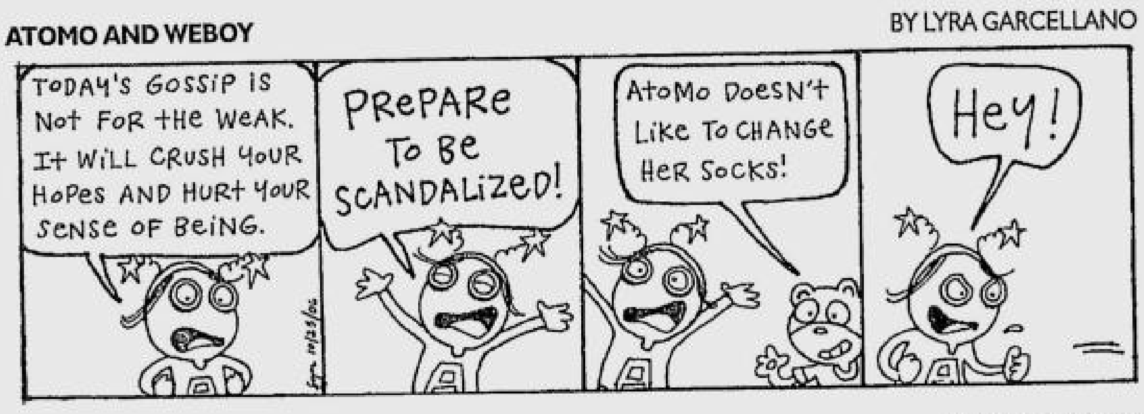
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MARAMI DAW GHOST EMPLOYEES...
AT MARAMI DIN DAW FLYING VOTERS...
KAYA PALA ANG TAAS NG BILANG NG ATING POPULATION!!!

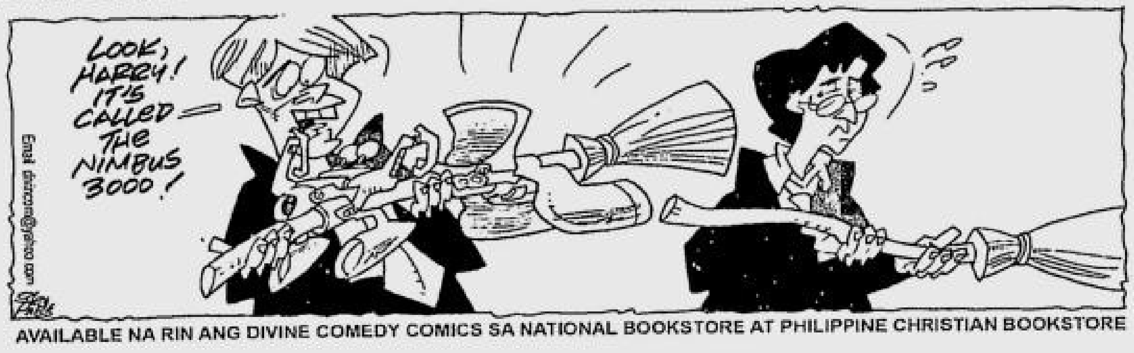
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TODAY'S GOSSIP IS NOT FOR THE WEAK. IT WILL CRUSH YOUR HOPES AND HURT YOUR SENSE OF BEING.
PREPARE TO BE SCANDALIZED!
ATOMO DOESN'T LIKE TO CHANGE HER SOCKS!
HEY!

DIVINE COMEDY

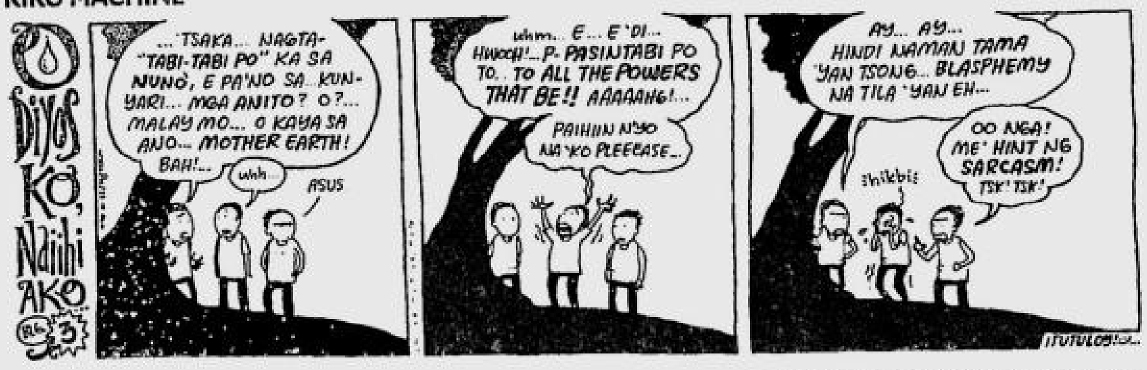
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LOOK, HARRY! IT'S CALLED THE NIMBUS 3000!

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

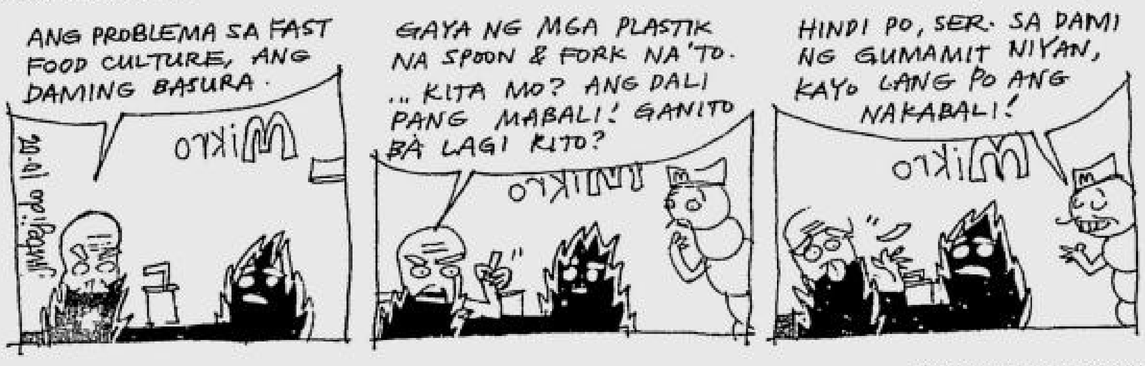
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


DIYOS KO, NAIIHI AKO
...TSAKA... NAGTA-"TABI-TABI PO" KA SA NUNO, E PA'NO SA...KUNYARI... MGA ANITO? O?... MALAY MO... O KAYA SA ANO... MOTHER EARTH! BAH!...
uhh...
ASUS
uhm... E... E'DI... HWOOH!... P- PASINTABI PO TO... TO ALL THE POWERS THAT BE!! AAAAAHG!...
PAIHIIN N'YO NA 'KO PLEEEASE...
AY... AY... HINDI NAMAN TAMA 'YAN TSONG... BLASPHEMY NA TILA 'YAN EH...
OO NGA! ME' HINT NG SARCASM! TSK' TSK'
:hikbi:
ITUTULOY

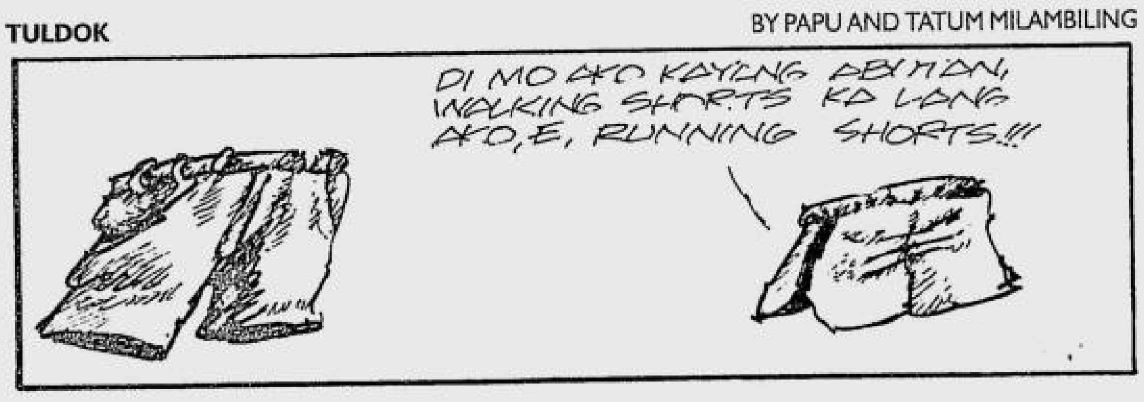
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG PROBLEMA SA FAST FOOD CULTURE, ANG DAMING BASURA.
GAYA NG MGA PLASTIK NA SPOON & FORK NA 'TO. ...KITA MO? ANG DALI PANG MABALI! GANITO BA LAGI KITO?
HINDI PO, SER. SA DAMI NG GUMAMIT NIYAN, KAYO LANG PO ANG NAKABALI!
Mikro

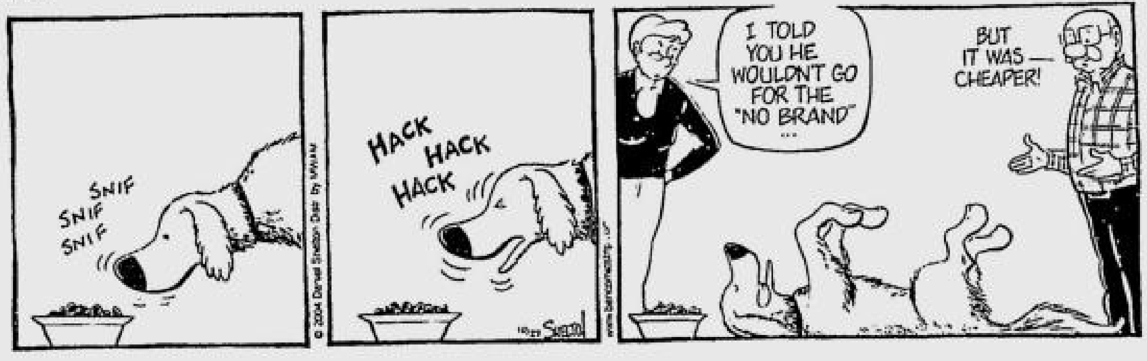
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI MO AKO KAYANG ABUTAN, WALKING SHORTS KA LANG AKO, E, RUNNING SHORTS!!!

BEN

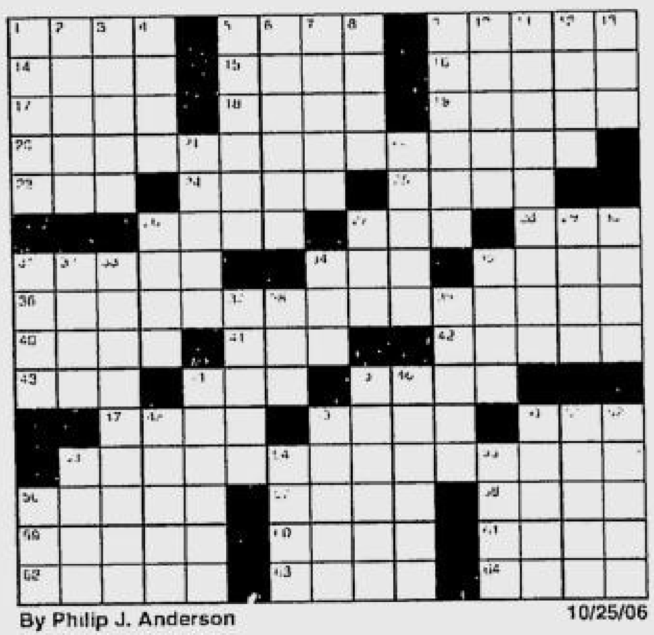
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SNIF SNIF SNIF
HACK HACK HACK
I TOLD YOU HE WOULDN'T GO FOR THE "NO BRAND"...
BUT IT WAS — CHEAPER!

DAILY CROSSWORD

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

10/25/06

ACROSS
- 1 Computer clutter
- 5 Balmy
- 9 Buccaneer's home
- 14 Record
- 15 Small buffalo
- 16 Red of oil well fire-fighting fame
- 17 Collier's entrance
- 18 Roman way
- 19 Simpson and Maverick
- 20 Unpaid worker at GM?
- 23 Author Kesey
- 24 Jug handles
- 25 "Lohengrin" lady
- 26 First murderer
- 27 Attorney's org.
- 28 Take a powder
- 31 Rose oil
- 34 Mass vestment
- 35 Berne's river
- 36 Unpaid worker at the DEA?
- 40 Calamitous
- 41 Appropriate
- 42 Sphere of activity
- 43 Family member
- 44 Tokyo, formerly
- 45 ___ carotene
- 47 Domesticate
- 49 Louver piece
- 50 Stage signal
- 53 Unpaid workers at the FDA?
- 56 Customary practice
- 57 Person, place or thing
- 58 "Trinity" author
- 59 Diacritical mark
- 60 Facial feature
- 61 Casino cubes
- 62 Spirited mount
- 63 Imitator
- 64 Abba of Israel

DOWN
- 1 Pancake order
- 2 San Diego pro
- 3 Of bees
- 4 Shea team
- 5 Rum cocktail
- 6 Practical trainee
- 7 Wind-blown soil
- 8 Pub projectile
- 9 ___ rasa
- 10 Washington's successor
- 11 Citrus spread
- 12 Sympathy
- 13 ___ longa, vita brevis
- 21 Gets wind of
- 22 Morgan of "Boston Public"
- 26 Zoo enclosure
- 27 TV alien from Melmac
- 29 Presley's middle name
- 30 Bucks' leader?
- 31 Tacks on
- 32 Small combo
- 33 Platter player
- 34 Sternward
- 35 Site of the Taj Mahal
- 37 2000 candidate Ralph
- 38 Debut on NASDAQ
- 39 Dapper
- 44 Hammed it up
- 45 Woman's shirt
- 46 Paycheck recipient
- 48 Endure
- 49 Lower oneself
- 50 Gulf of Mex. neighbor
- 51 City on the Mohawk
- 52 City on the Ruhr
- 53 Cafe au ___
- 54 Magnani or Moffo
- 55 Crass
- 56 Mt. meas.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	K	S		L	A	I	C		S	E	R	I	F
R	A	N	T		U	N	D	O		E	V	A	D	E
T	R	I	O		S	T	E	M		D	O	Z	I	N
S	I	T	O	N	T	H	E	B	R	A	K	E	S	
			P	U	R	L			O	N	L			
G	N	U		H	E	R	A	L	D	S		M	A	S
L	I	N	E	R			R	A	E		I	O	W	A
O	N	C	R	U	I	S	E	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
B	E	A	R		G	U	N			O	S	A	K	A
E	S	P		E	L	E	A	N	O	R		L	E	D
			F	R	O			A	N	T	S			
	S	P	I	N	O	N	E	S	W	H	E	E	L	S
S	T	A	G	E		U	R	S	A		R	I	O	T
O	A	T	H	S		T	S	A	R		U	R	G	E
B	R	E	T	T		S	T	U	D		M	E	O	W

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10/25/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a marvelous imagination! You just need to find the right format for the expression of your ideas and visions. You want an orderly support system that is reliable so you can perform to your best ability. Family and loved ones know they can depend on you. You will enjoy more solitude in the year ahead so that you can learn something exciting and fresh.

Birthdate of: Pablo Picasso, artist; Anne Tyler, novelist; Tracy Nelson, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Intimate relationships are passionate now. Your feelings are very intense. You want your experiences to transcend ordinary reality.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Casual relationships might become committed partnerships now. (Be still, my beating heart.) Things could definitely be heating up for you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): One of the reasons you can get a lot done now is that coworkers are extremely supportive. Not only are they willing to help you, they're willing to follow your suggestions as well.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an unusually romantic, playful time for you. Enjoy working with children. Express your creative talents. Slip away on a vacation. It's all about indulging yourself now!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Increased chaos or activity at home might be stressful, but you have plans to improve things! You want to make where you live look more beautiful. (You love your home.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ability to sell, influence, market, persuade or teach is marvelous today. You're so convincing! (A good product always sells itself.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You adore beautiful things. You're excited about a special purchase. You're spending money on something quite lovely for yourself or loved ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a great day to buy wardrobe items. You will instinctively choose something that looks good on you. Social discussions with partners and friends are pleasant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll be pleased to have a quiet moment to yourself today, especially if it is outdoors in a beautiful place. (You like the freedom of having nothing but sky overhead.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is truly a great day to schmooze with friends. You genuinely enjoy the company of someone (perhaps even a group), and vice versa. You will like talking to someone who's special to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with the head honcho (or a parent) will flow easily today. Others feel well-disposed to you. You might ask for a favor and get the answer you want. (Try it.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Political, religious and philosophical debates intrigue you today. You might also have a good time with someone from a very different background from yours.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

9		8				7		3
		4				2		
			3		5			
		2		5		1		
			9	4	1			
		7		2		6		
			5		7			
		9				5		
2		6				8		9

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/25

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

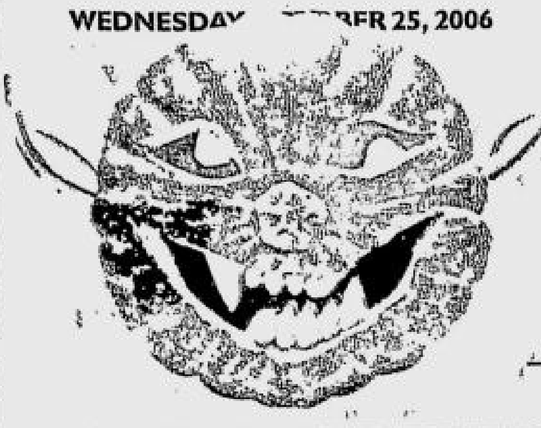
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

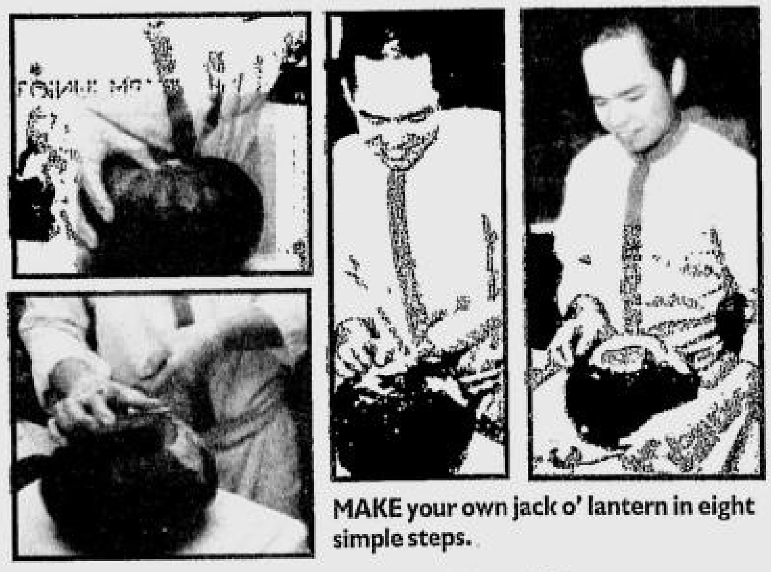
9	2	5	6	8	3	4	7	1
6	3	4	5	1	7	2	9	8
8	1	7	9	4	2	3	6	5
4	7	8	2	6	1	9	5	3
3	5	6	8	7	9	1	4	2
1	9	2	3	5	4	6	8	7
2	8	9	7	3	6	5	1	4
7	6	1	4	2	5	8	3	9
5	4	3	1	9	8	7	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★

10/24



Light up your house with a homemade jack-o'-lantern—or 10 of them



MAKE your own jack o' lantern in eight simple steps.

Squashing pumpkins

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

TWENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD Isidro Mantes has a fun job. As a cold kitchen artist at the Hotel Philippine Plaza (soon to be Sofitel), he is in charge of making ice carvings and constantly uses his hands to make magic.

When Halloween hits, his job becomes even more fun. He whips out his paring knife and creates jack-o'-lanterns to get hotel guests in a spooky mood.

Instead of pumpkins, Isidro uses squash, which is easier to find locally.

2bU! asked Isidro to spill his squash-carving secrets so you, too, can enjoy making your own jack-o'-lanterns.

These scary faces can be used as décor or even a centerpiece for your screamingly good Halloween party.

What you need:

A squash
Paring knives
Ample working space

The steps:

1. Choose a squash with a nice shape.

2. Draw a big circle on one end of the squash—you can use a pencil, a pen or a knife.

3. Use the circle as a guide to cut and remove that part of the squash.

4. Using a large spoon or a scooper, remove the seeds and pulp from inside the squash.

5. Draw the face's pattern on the other end of the squash using a pencil or a market. Or, if you're as confident as Isidro, skip the pens and use a paring knife.

6. Following the pattern, cut your way through the squash. For curved areas, use a smaller knife.

7: Remove the cut-out pieces by pushing from inside the squash.

8. Create an eerie glow by placing a votive candle inside the squash.

Just two quick reminders—be careful with the knives and make sure you don't leave candles unattended. Halloween or not, safety always comes first.

It's fun and easy—all you need is your imagination

Make your own mask

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IF YOU REFUSE TO WEAR store-bought costumes for fear of seeing someone wearing the exact same thing (now that's real horror), making your own Halloween outfit is a good option.

You can start with a mask. Making one is simple, easy and quick. You can even turn your mask-making session into a party with friends.

Merit's creative director Dennis Celestial whipped out his Lyra colored pens and showed us how.

What you need:

Cardboard, barbecue sticks, paint, ribbons, buttons, sequins, glue, glue gun, glitter, knick knacks and anything you can find

Steps:

1. Paint your barbecue stick in any color you desire.

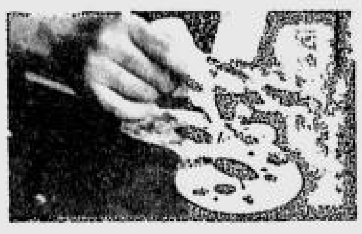
2. Cut out the cardboard in your desired mask shape. If this is too difficult, turn to the Internet. There are many mask patterns you can download and print to use as an outline for your mask. Just Google "mask pattern."

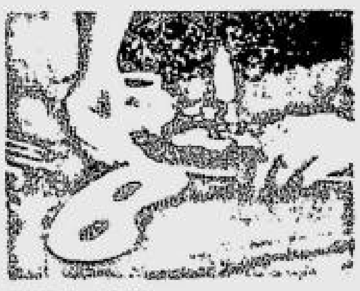
3. Go crazy. You can choose to be organized and visualize your mask before working on it, or just play with your materials. Draw, color, stick things on your mask. Use glue gun for beads, pompoms and plastic embellishments. Don't forget to have fun!

4. Attach your mask to your barbecue stick. Let dry.

5. Hit the Halloween events and hide behind your fab homemade mask.

Kids will get a chance to make their own masks at Hotel Philippine Plaza's "Spooktacular Halloween" Sunday brunch on Oct. 29. Families staying at the hotel on the weekend of Oct. 27 will enjoy a total Halloween experience. Call the Hotel Philippine Plaza at 5515555.



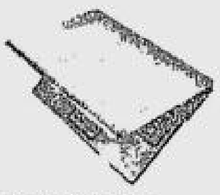


HIT the Halloween events wearing your own creation.

Compaq recommends Windows® XP Professional.

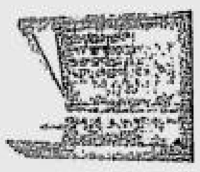
Sleek design peak performance.
Compaq Presario V3000 Notebook PC

Sleek. Sculpted. Powerful. The new HP Compaq Presario V3000 Notebook PC powered by Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology delivers impressive multitasking performance wherever you roam. In creating this modern masterpiece, HP invented a state-of-the-art moulding technique to create the industrial brushed gunmetal casing, which offers greater scratch resistance than traditional painted casings. And if you are looking for more innovative design features, try the latchless magnetic closure and touch-sensitive buttons that let you launch and control your digital media without booting up. So, whatever way you look at it, this is a tool that's designed to impress.



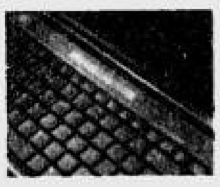
Sleek new design

Unique scratch-resistant gunmetal casing helps you make the right impression, while one-touch buttons enrich your computing experience through improved aesthetics and usability.



Latch-free screen

Streamlined and intuitive, like every other aspect of this machine. One simple arm movement is all it takes to lift your screen into position



Control your media

The backlit capacitive buttons offer one-touch DVD playback. Just touch to mute or slide across the volume pad to adjust sound level.

Expansion base* (optional accessory)

The HP xb3000 notebook expansion base offers height-adjustable, comfortable eye-level viewing, more productivity ports, wireless support and integrated speakers for this notebook.

COMPAQ

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P14.75

P24.75

P299.75

P99.75

P29.50

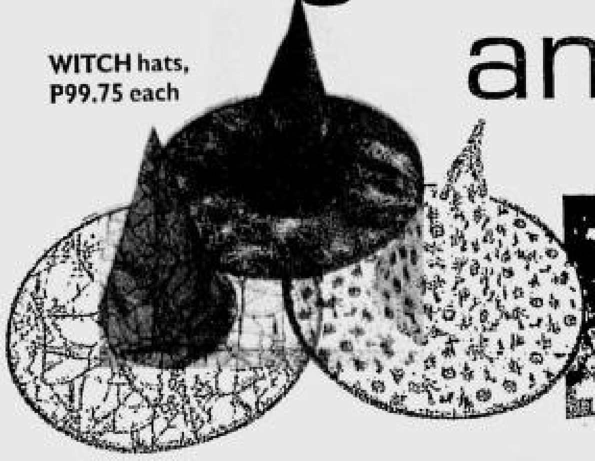
P99.75

P299.75

P99.75

P399.75

The good, grotesque and the ugly


WITCH hats, P99.75 each

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

HALLOWEEN IS THE PERfect excuse to look horrible. It is the only night people will compliment you for looking gross and gruesome.

Sure, you can still dress up and be pretty—play the fairy, the princess, the angel or the legendary Hollywood star. But really, there is more fun in piling on the fake blood, the fangs, the cobwebs, and yards and yards of black cloth.

Seriously, this is the year for blood and gore.

I took the cutesy route last year by dressing as an oversized fairy—complete with glittery makeup and sparkly wings—but this year I intend to spend the night as a killer butcher armed with a bloody knife and a rotting leg.

If you need inspiration in unleashing the monster in you, hit SM Department Store and Toy Kingdom. That's where I found my butcher's knife for just P25 and the prosthetic leg splattered with blood for P79.

SM is now packed with gruesome goodies. SM Makati's hall has been transformed into a crazy buffet of Halloween finds from SM Department Store and Toy Kingdom: monster masks, haunted house décor, crazy costumes and more.

And with so many choices, your biggest challenge is sticking to one character—unless you want to morph your monsters and become a mummified Dracula or an alien witch.

Have fun, go wild, go grotesque.

Halloween is the perfect excuse to turn yourself into a monster

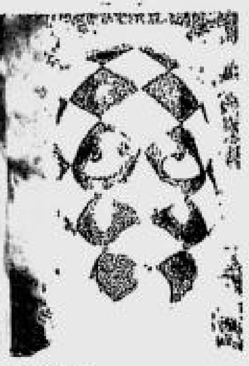
P399.75

MASK MODELS: CHESTER CASEL AND HERALD BALADIANG

P599.75

P99.75

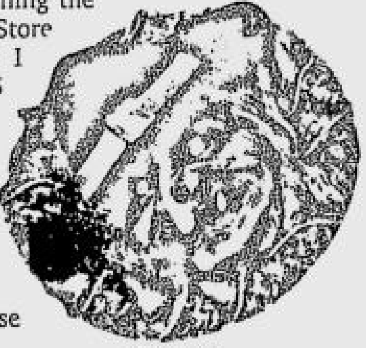
P299.75

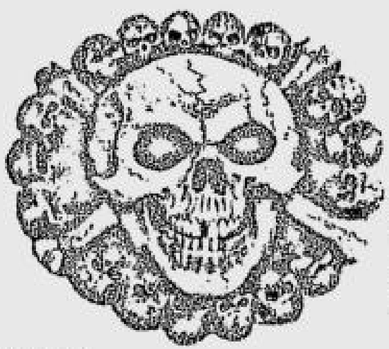

P29.50

P29.50 each

PUMPKIN bags, P79.75 and P99.75

BIZARRE bazaar


P399.75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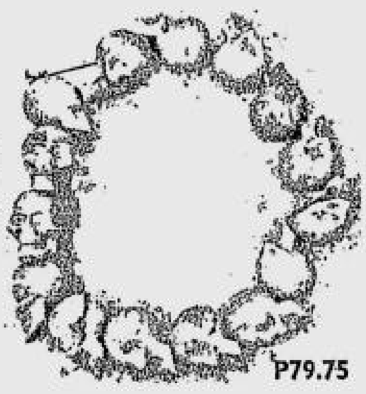
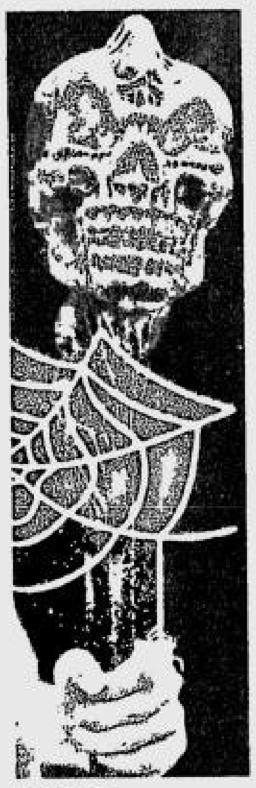

P79.75

P249.75


P299.75

P499.75

CHOOSE your scary face.

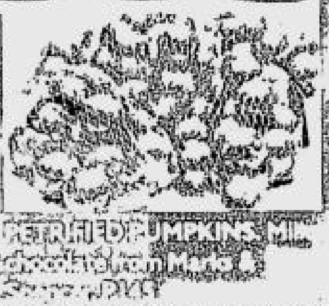
Spooky sweets and sugary treats

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas and Romy Homillada

JUST BECAUSE THE PRACTICE of trick-or-treating in this country is limited to a few [illegible] villages doesn't mean you have to skip the candy.

2bU ransacked the [illegible] of Marks & Spencer and SM and stalked out [illegible] from Hershey's [illegible] Halloween-themed sugary treats that you can get your hands on [illegible].

Reusable pump[illegible] in candy [illegible] ghost-shaped marshmallows [illegible] chocolate skeletons [illegible] spooky sweets [illegible] haunted [illegible] snacks.

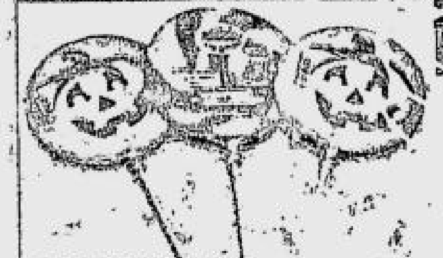

HORRIBLE Halloween [illegible] from Marks & Spencer, P[illegible]

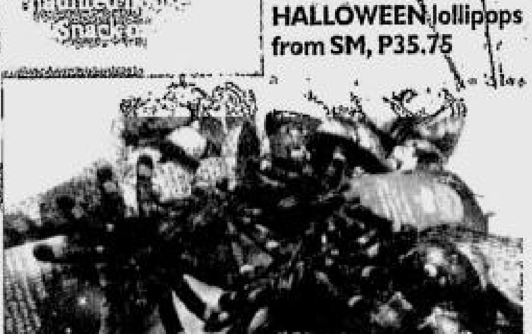
PETRIFIED PUMPKINS, milk chocolates from Marks & Spencer, P[illegible]

SCARY Skeletons from Marks & Spencer, P[illegible]

HALLOWEEN [illegible] from SM, P[illegible]

[illegible] lollipops from Marks & Spencer [illegible]


HALLOWEEN lollipops from SM, P35.75


[illegible] **BEASTIES** milk chocolate [illegible] and bats with spider toy from Marks & Spencer, P265

GHOST-SHAPED marshmallows from Marks & Spencer, P275

ORANGE-THEMED [illegible] chocolates from Hershey's [illegible]

ENTERTAIN T

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_ent

Dingdong and Jessa not giving up on RP

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marinel R. Cruz

TAKE FIVE

"WE DON'T INTEND TO ABANDON THE Philippines. In fact, we're now capable of reaching out to more Filipinos, especially to those who live abroad," declared singer-songwriter Dingdong Avanzado, who recently migrated to the United States with his wife and daughter.

Dingdong, wife Jessa Zaragoza and 3-year-old daughter Jayda, took up residence in Vallejo, California early this year. The Avanzados are now green card holders, which affirms their US permanent resident status.

"In the beginning, we decided to keep this a secret. We get asked about it during interviews but we never really confirmed it. We were also thinking, 'What if our application got denied?' But when people close to us started congratulating us, we realized that it's not something that we should hide," Dingdong explained. "We now want to share our story to others in the hope that they would be inspired."

Dingdong said his family applied for "extraordinary ability" green cards in 2004. The EA green card is for foreigners "with extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics, which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim, and whose achievements have been recognized in the field through extensive documentation," according to the website www.myvisa.com.

Lawyer Jemela Nettles helped the Avanzados in the processing of their papers, taking them merely two years to complete the processing, Dingdong said.

"While I was working on our papers, I went to the States and tried to learn how it's like living there, as well as trained for the job I planned to apply for," he recounted. "This wasn't an overnight thing."

Dingdong said he bought a car and a house in Vallejo in March 2006. Jessa and Jayda went to live with him two months later.

"Honestly, up until the time we got our green cards, we were thinking, 'Are we doing the right thing?' We were scared, too. Our comfort zone is here," Dingdong shared. "But we're doing this for our daughter. We want her to have other options when it's time for her to pursue her dreams."

MILES AWAY. Dingdong and Jessa outside their residence in Vallejo, California

After having spent time in the US, Dingdong said he is now sure he made the right choice. "I consider my family very blessed. We have a home, a car and a steady income. Not many people are given this kind of opportunity. Filipinos there are very warm to us," he said. "Even offers for us to do shows have quadrupled."

How was it like adjusting in your new home?

Jessa: *Masarap na mahirap* is how I describe it. It's hard in the sense that we don't have a helper there and have to do everything on our own. There, I do the laundry and clean the bathroom. I also don't have a choice but to learn how to cook.

Dingdong: I had to adjust to her cooking big time. I had to adjust my taste buds (laughter).

Jessa, you don't cook here?

J: I had my own *yaya* when I was here. My daughter had her own *yaya*, too. We also had a maid who cleaned our house. I'm scared of going near the stove. There, I had no choice. *Pag hindi mo hinipo 'yan, hindi ka kakain*, especially when you're left at home alone.

D: It's funny how she prepares food. While food is normally prepared for about one or two hours, it takes Jessa six hours to cook.

J: I just want to make sure I don't overcook or burn anything. It can be really depressing when your meal gets ruined. Now, I know how to cook *sinigang*, chicken *afritada*, *adobo*.

D: Or something like that. (laughter). One of my jobs at home is to segregate the garbage. The system there requires you to be disciplined. What I noticed about Filipinos there, they follow rules.

But do you enjoy living on your own?

D: Yes. We've become much closer. We see our daughter grow every day. We're her teachers now. She wants us to read to her. She's very inquisitive.

How is Jayda adjusting?

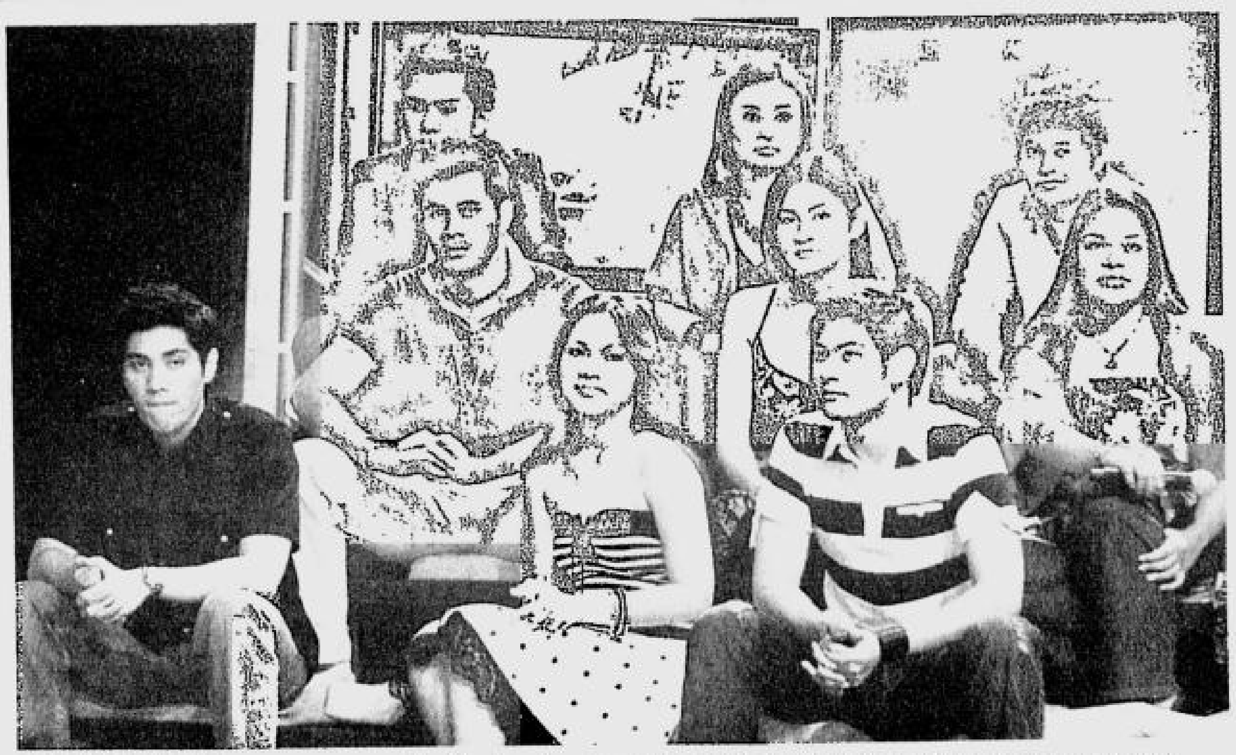
J: She's adapted well because she speaks the language. She's very friendly, not shy at all.

D: She says hello to everyone. Whenever she visits a house, the first question she asks is, "Where's your dog?"

How was it like on your first night in a place that's totally different from where you lived all your life?

J: I cried on my first night there. I was so scared. I didn't know if I could stand being away from my family. I was

DINGDONG/ E3



CLIFFHANGER. The suspense escalates for the nine remaining contestants of "Philippine Idol" as technical glitches drove organizers to postpone the fourth elimination round last Sunday. Fate hangs in the balance for finalists (L-R, from first row) Gian Magdangal, Apple Chiu, Miguel Mendoza, Jan Nieto, Jeli Mateo, Mau Marcelo, Ken Dingle, Arms Cruz and Pow Chavez. See story on page E6.

PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

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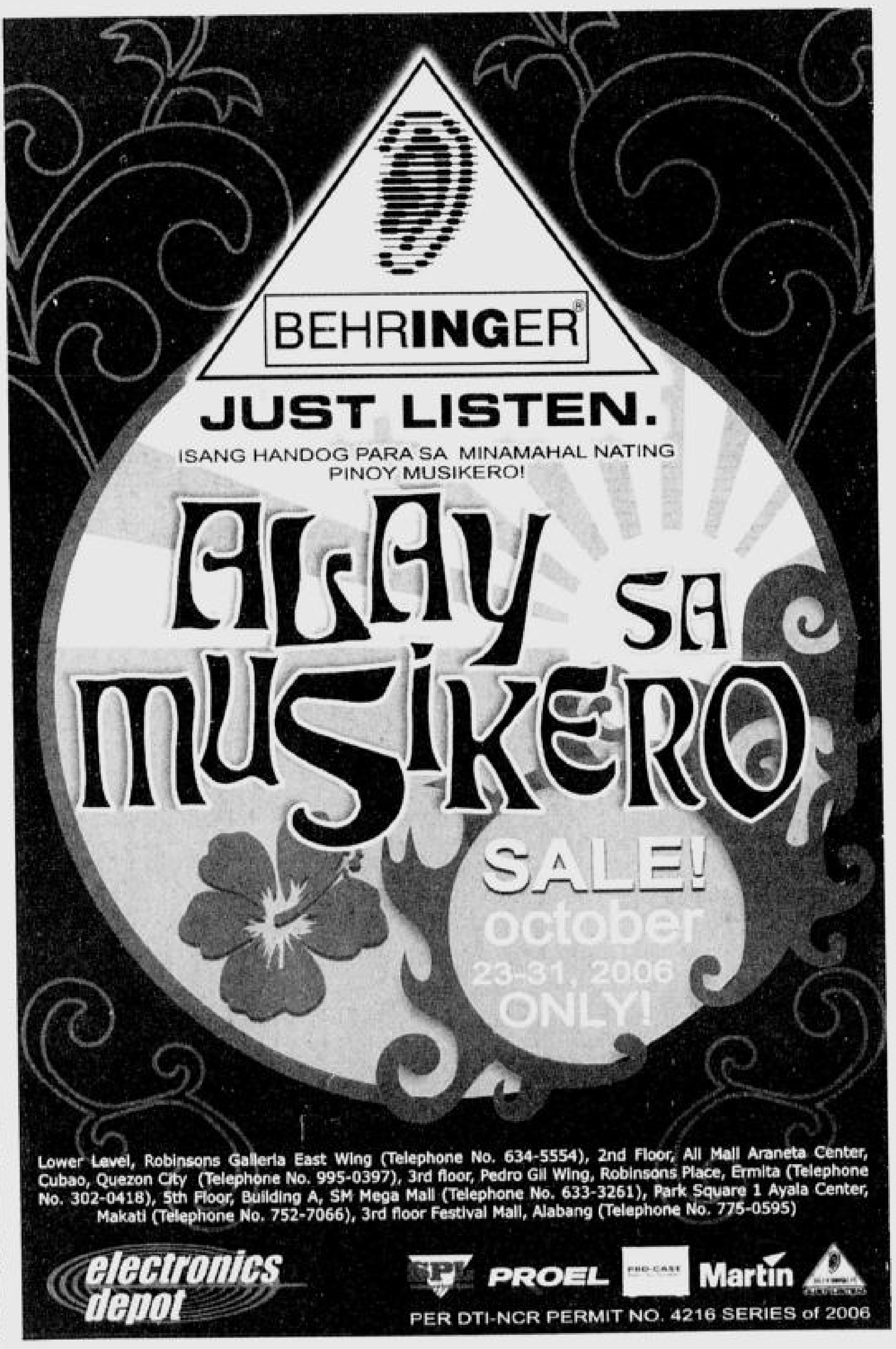

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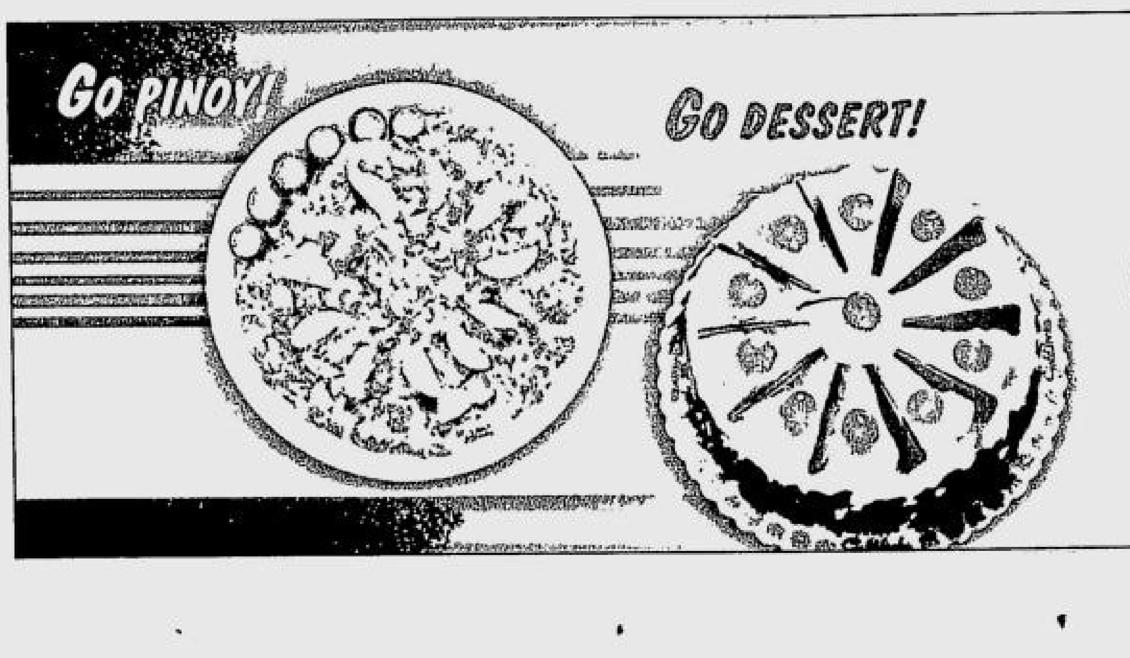

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No claptrap for Isaac Mizrahi

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER TYRA BANKS, IT'S DESIGNER ISAAC Mizrahi's turn to host a TV talk show. We caught it for the first time last Oct. 16 at 10 p.m. on the Lifestyle Network.

The show was made colorful and eventful by Mizrahi's ebullient personality.

Forthrightly gay, he regaled viewers and members of the studio audience with spontaneous comments and observations about anything and everything under the fashion sun—and related heavenly bodies.

The episode we viewed focused on shoes, with different features that showed how people's footwear spoke volumes about them.

Mizrahi's guests included actress Rosie Perez, TV host Lara Spencer and several experts on the so-called psychology of shoes. Perez revealed that, aside from acting, she now directs documentaries.

So far, so self-possessed. But the host cracked Perez up when he asked her about her love live and wondered, "Are you dating someone now—I mean, somebody out of prison?"

He regales viewers with anything under the fashion sun

Perez laughed out loud, because it turned out that Mizrahi knew something about her that most people didn't.

But both host and guest chose not to provide more details about the touchy topic, and intrigued viewers had to leave it at that.

The show's makeshift set is completely in keeping with its host's rambunctious, unpredictable personality. Adding even more to the program's edgy feel, it occasionally did features outside the studio, with Mizrahi dishing out dirt with some startled pedestrians.

One such man-in-the-street feature had Mizrahi asking people how many pairs of shoes they owned. The answers ranged from a low of 10 to a high of "only" 60 pairs.

Of course, we wondered how Mizrahi would have reacted if one of the people he accosted had turned out to be—The Imeldific.

As a talk show host, Mizrahi is sometimes caught unawares, and doesn't pace his program as well as he should. But, give him time to learn the hosting ropes some more, and he should be okay.

In fact, his cluelessness sometimes works to his advantage. It makes his show less slick and more unpredictable and some of that is refreshing and welcome.

For instance, he makes no bones about asking the members of his studio audience to help him make his guests feel welcome, by bluntly asking them to "clap for Rosie—clap!"

No sophisticated "claptrap" for this TV host, that's for sure.

In other parts of the show, Mizrahi's expertise as a designer and fashion maven comes into full play when he answers viewers' questions about what to wear for which occasion, etc.

In this regard, he's no raw newcomer, so the advice he dispenses is as astute as it is entertainingly phrased.

Catch Mizrahi's new show on the Lifestyle Network at 10 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and see if it's the witch's brew for you.

'The Prestige'

"The Prestige," starring Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale as rival magicians, opens in Metro Manila today. The film combines intense drama and spectacularly magical flourishes, and its period setting adds to its mood of mystery and passion.

'300'

The trailer of the new action-adventure film, "300," will be shown in local theaters as an added attraction to screenings of "The Prestige."

Based on the popular epic graphic novel by Frank Miller, "300" is a ferocious retelling of the ancient Battle of Thermopylae in which King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) and 300 Spartans fought to the death against Xerxes and his massive Persian Army.

The film combines live action with virtual backgrounds that capture Miller's distinct vision of this ancient historic tale.

DID YOU KNOW...

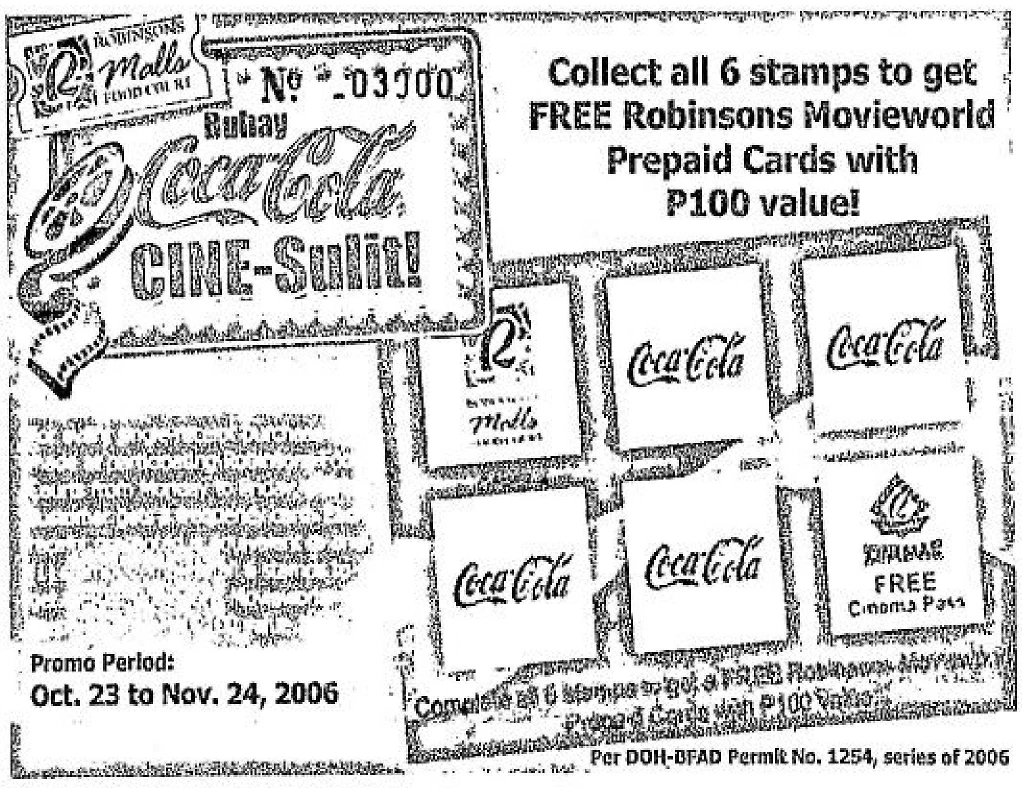
'Harry Potter' in the nude

NEW YORK—THE world knows him as boy wizard Harry Potter. Now, Daniel Radcliffe wants the world to see him differently.

Next summer, the 17-year-old will take to a London stage in the Tony Award-winning drama "Equus" and will perform nude during one scene, according to Newsweek magazine in editions that will hit newsstands Monday.

"Part of me wants to shake up people's perception of me, just shove me in a blender," he told the magazine in an exclusive interview on the set of the fifth Harry Potter film, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

In "Equus," Radcliffe will play a "troubled young man with a religious-erotic obsession with horses," the magazine reported.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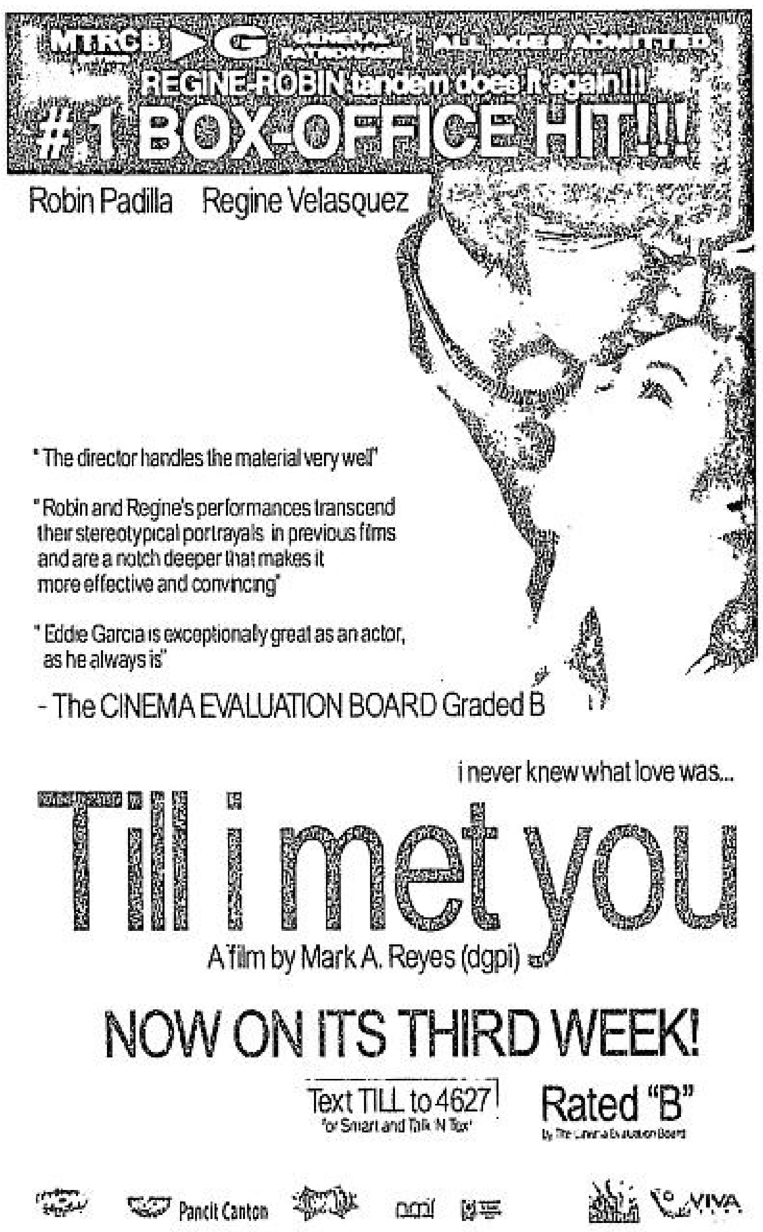
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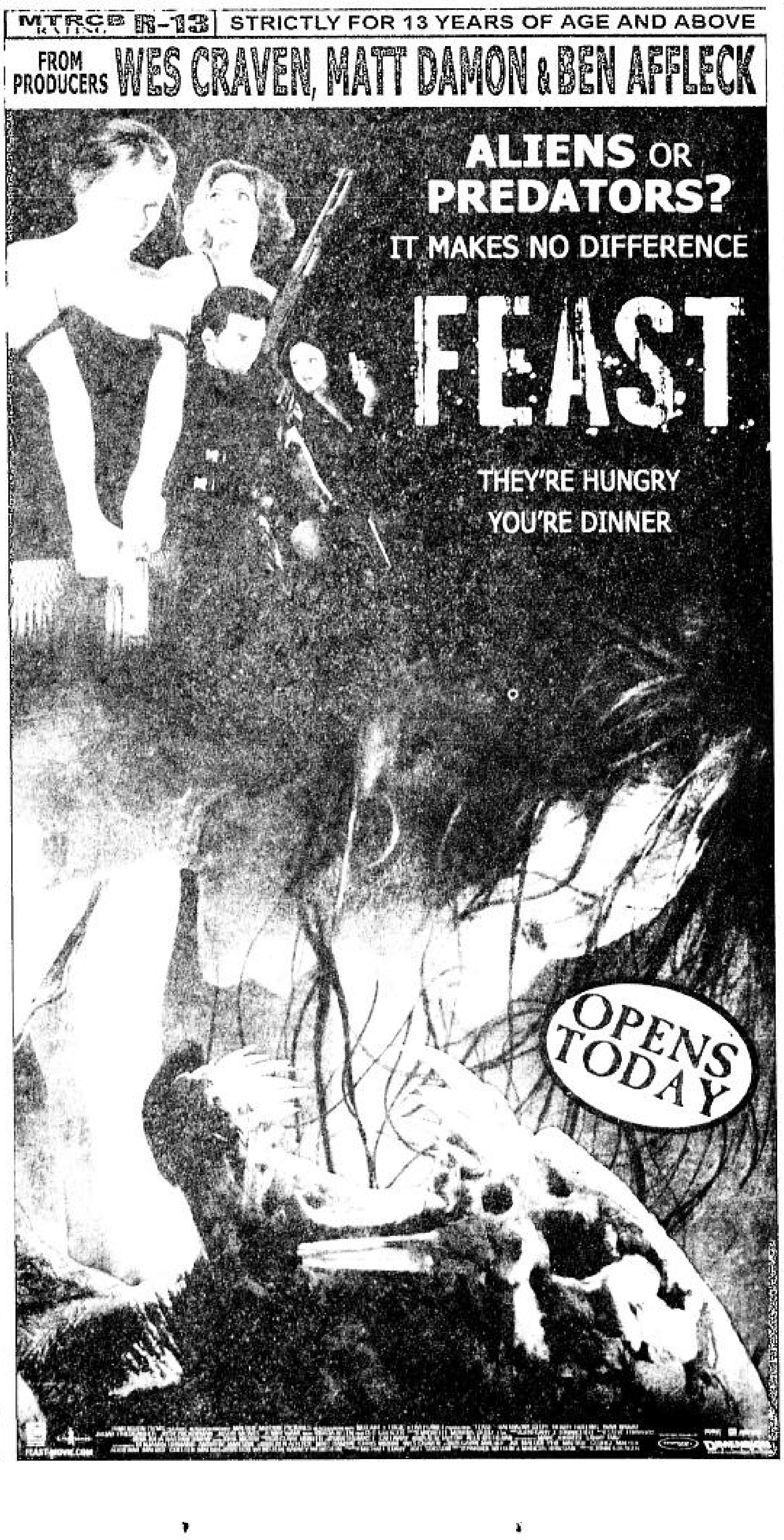
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Dingdong and Jessa . . .

From page E1

also frightened about the prospect of having to deal with the stove (laughter).

D: On the first night was when I felt really lonely. I went there two months ahead of them. I had lived with my cousin for two days when I decided that I had to move in to our house. I slept on the floor with a borrowed pillow and night lamp. I stared at the ceiling and prayed that I did the right thing. I really felt so homesick.

What do you miss most about the Philippines?

J: I miss eating instant pancit canton.

D: I miss *palabok. Iba ang lasa doon*. I also miss my friends here. We don't just turn our backs on them and say goodbye. I have a brother there, but most of my family is still here.

Dingdong, how different is your work there? (Dingdong is marketing manager of the mortgage company Red Acres Financial.)

D: This was how I envisioned our lives to be—simple and quiet life. I like my work. I own my time. I'm not pressured to be on a 9-5 setting. Jessa and I still do shows. In fact, we have more shows now that we're green card holders.

What are your plans for the coming year?

J: We'll tour "That Thing Called Love," the Valentine concert we did last year here.

D: Things went well after Martin (Nievera) and Pops (Fernandez) invited us to guest in their concert in October. We got to meet a lot of promoters who say they are interested in bringing us around the States. That opened a lot of doors for us. Our US tour will kick off in February and go on throughout 2007. Toward the last part of 2007, we're going to make our second baby. Jayda will be 4 years old by then.

(Jessa will also guest in The Platters show at Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno, Nevada on Nov. 4.)

What happens to your properties here?

D: We plan to sell it. We live in Vallejo now. Returning here depends on whether we'll have commitments. Remember, we still have a duet album to promote. We'll be going back and forth. We may live there, but in our hearts, home is still in the Philippines.

J: What's good about living in Vallejo is that it's a very peaceful place. It's not too crowded. We live in a four-bedroom, two-story home. It was built in 1988, but it's well-maintained. An American with a Filipino wife owned it.

D: What I like about the place is that it's very accessible. We're near Marine World, and we can always drive to Disneyland or Lake Tahoe. If we want to feel romantic, Napa Valley is just 20 minutes away.

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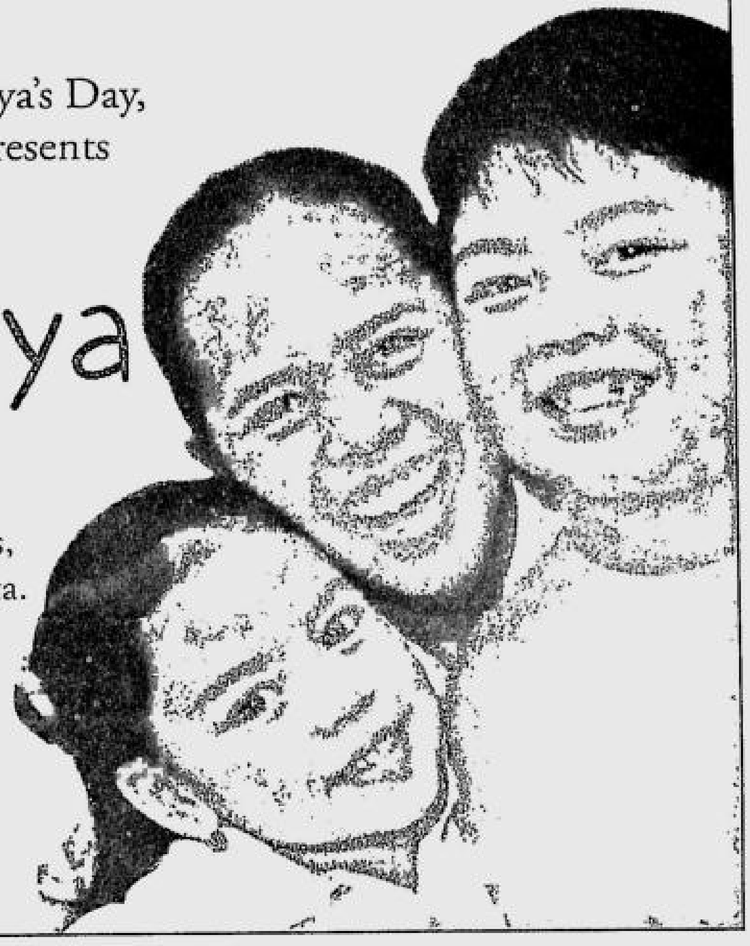

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AT 19, SHE BECAME QUEEN
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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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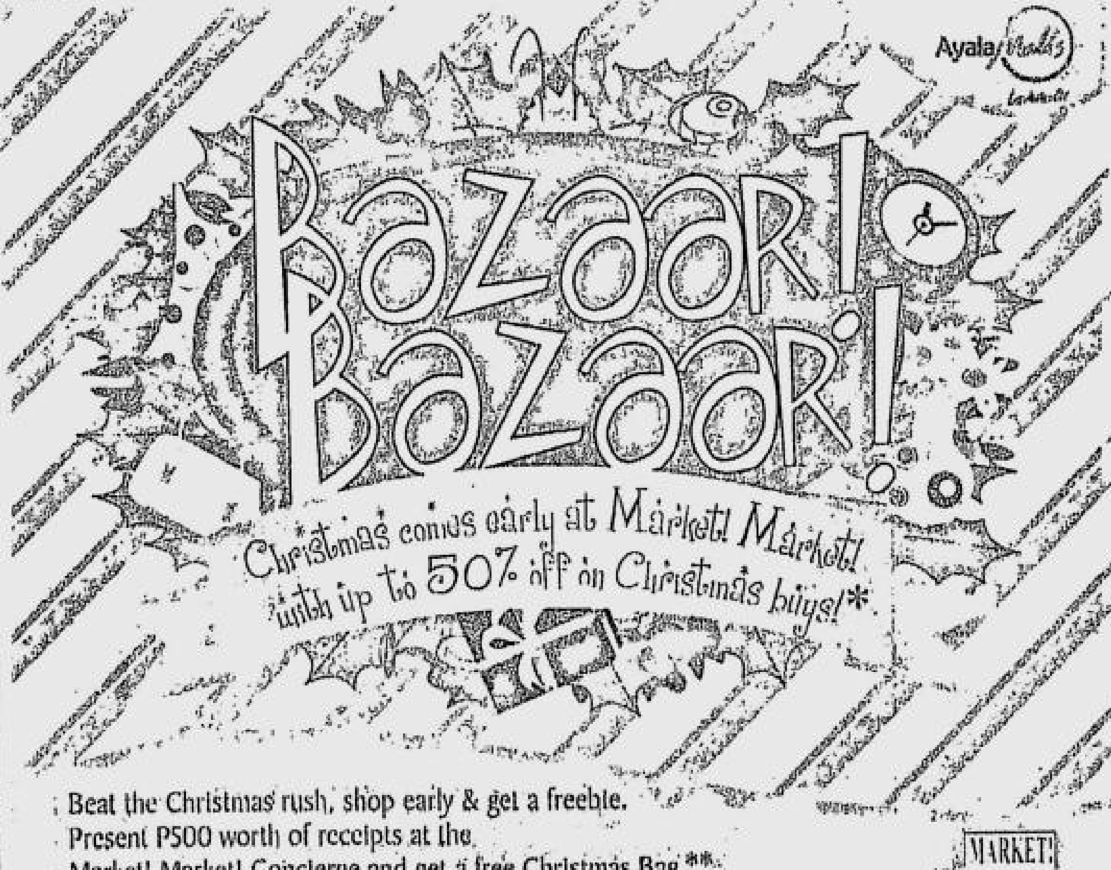

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ROUNDUP

Scaling Everest

TONIGHT, "PROBE" REPORTER Ricky Carandang delves deeper into why the Filipino tends to spend whatever he earns and does not think of saving up. Ricky also seeks a financial expert who gives tips on how one could aim to be debt-free.

Reporter Pinky Webb interviews two ladies who have risen to the challenge of climbing to the top of the Mount Everest for a unity climb next year. Pinky checks out the science behind the climb, and the preparations needed.

Cheche Lazaro boards a land rover and goes on a game drive tour—or a safari—in Swaziland, Southern Africa.

The episode airs at 11 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

"HAPPY FEET"

Animated comedy

From George Miller, the creator of "Babe," comes the eagerly anticipated animated comedy "Happy Feet," the heartwarming story of singing and tap-dancing penguins.

Featuring the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman and Hugo Weaving, the music-filled spectacle also features songs by Prince, Fantasia Barrino, Chrissie Hynde, kd lang, Jason Mraz and Pink.

In the great nation of Emperor Penguins, deep in Antarctica, one is nobody unless one can sing—which is unfortunate for Mumble (Wood), the worst singer in the world. But he is born dancing to his own tune—tap dancing.

Opening soon, the film is distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures.

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2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 FEAST
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BANQUET
9 GRUDGE - 2
10 TXT

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE PRESTIGE
2 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE - 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON
5 FEAST

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 BARANG
3 PULSE
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
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2 OPEN SEASON
3 TXT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4448346)
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5002 to 03
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE - 2
4 TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
3 (DOLBY) THE PRESTIGE
4 (DOLBY) GRUDGE 2

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 OPEN SEASON
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PULSE
2 GAWIN SA DILIM
3 HUNGER FOR LOVE
4 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 HALIMUYAK
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 THE DEPARTED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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GHOST HOUSE PICTURES VIVA

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1 THE PRESTIGE MTRCB R-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
2 OPEN SEASON MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 THE GRUDGE 2 MTRCB PG-13 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER MTRCB PG-13 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE BANQUET MTRCB PG-13
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BARNYARD G 1:00,3:00 THE BANQUET PG13 5:00,7:40	OPEN SEASON G 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20
GRUDGE 2 PG13 1:45,3:50,6:05,8:15	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	THE PRESTIGE R13 12:00,2:40,5:20, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
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CINEMA 2 FEAST
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 OPEN SEASON GP
CINEMA 4 THE GRUDGE 2 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE PRESTIGE R-13
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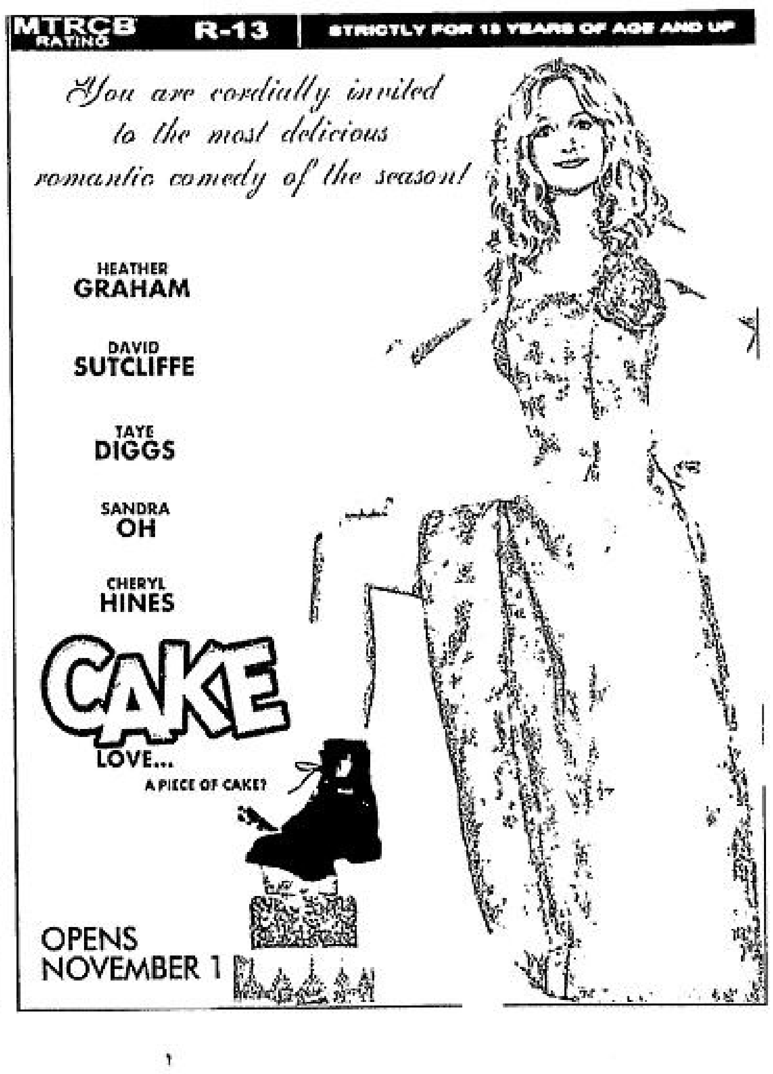
MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT 28, 2006	BOBBY SOUL	8:00 PM
NOV. 10 & 11, 2006	PINKY A., MONIQUE W., JUNO HENARES	9:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO CLASSICO	8:00PM
NOV. 3, 9 & 10	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
NOV 14,21,28, DEC 5,12	DYORDS KO PO	8:30 PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635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CAKE
LOVE... A PIECE OF CAKE?
OPENS NOVEMBER 1

THE CABARET
Nocturne
A DARK VAUDEVILLE

SHOW TIME

Halloween party

AN EVENING OF film showing, live performances by new artists, regular bands, invited musicians and show biz personalities will share the stage at the pre-Halloween party "Cabaret Nocturne, A Dark Vaudeville" on Oct. 28 at Tavern on the Square.

The entrance fee of P500 per person comes with a select choice of drinks and food. Those who don their best dark vaudeville, cabaret attire might just romp away with the grand prize for best in costume.

Souvenirs will also be given away for all attendees.

Tavern is at the Greenbelt 3, 2/L, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 7574484/85 for reservations.

Dance mania

A bewitching and lively Halloween night awaits partygoers at Bykes Café on Oct. 30, 7 p.m., with danceable music courtesy of the Family Cruz band as well as music programmed by the house DJs in between sets.

For only P850, guests will enjoy a sumptuous dinner, a special dance presentation of dancesport champions and Bykes' skilled dance instructors, plus a Latin dance competition.

The café is at the La Fuerza Bldg., 2241 Chino Roces Ave. corner Sabio St, Makati City. Call 7500622/23.

Band mix

"Halo-Halo-Ween" features Randy Santiago at Ratsky Malate on Oct. 27.

Joining the Halloween lineup of performers are Orange and Lemons at the Malate bar on Nov. 3 and 25 and at the Morato branch.

The Morato branch also sizzles with Retrospect on Oct. 28 and 30.

Call 523-8608 or 373-9882.

Tonight

Side A at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Up Dharma Down at 70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Richard Merk, Eddie K and Judith Banal at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3.

Tomorrow

The Greatest and the Latest Tribute Concert featuring RJ and Christian Bautista with Arthur Manuntag at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental; 8:30 p.m.

MYMP with Dindo at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Beatles Night at 70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Aretha & The Souled Out Band at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

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T-REX
11:00AM 2:30PM Admission Price: P300
OPEN SEASON IN 3D
12:30PM 1:30PM 6:00PM 8:00PM 10:00PM
Admission Price: P350
THE BANQUET
FEAST
THE PRESTIGE
THE GRUDGE 2
OPEN SEASON
TXT
PREMIERE CINEMA
WORLD TRADE CENTER
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
TILL I MET YOU
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
CINEMA 1
THE PRESTIGE
CINEMA 2
WORLD TRADE CENTER
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
THE PRESTIGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER
OPEN SEASON
WORLD TRADE CENTER
THE BANQUET
TILL I MET YOU
FEAST
TXT
THE PRESTIGE
THE GRUDGE 2

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WORLD TRADE CENTER
PHILIPPINE IDOL
JOSEPH THE DREAMER
THE DEPARTED
THE PRESTIGE
FEAST
THE GRUDGE 2
TXT
TILL I MET YOU
THE GUARDIAN
THE BANQUET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
FEAST
THE BANQUET
BARANG
WORLD TRADE CENTER
THE GRUDGE 2
THE GUARDIAN
THE PRESTIGE
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
PULSE
ANNAPOLIS
OPEN SEASON

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
THE GRUDGE 2
THE PRESTIGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER
OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
FEAST
THE BANQUET
BARANG
TXT
THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
THE GRUDGE 2
THE PRESTIGE
FEAST
OPEN SEASON
WORLD TRADE CENTER
TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
THE GRUDGE 2
OPEN SEASON
THE PRESTIGE
FEAST
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
THE BANQUET
WORLD TRADE CENTER
BARANG

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
THE PRESTIGE
OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
THE PRESTIGE
PULSE
BARANG
TXT
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THE GRUDGE 2
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THE GUARDIAN
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THE BANQUET
FEAST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333201-04
OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
WORLD TRADE CENTER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
THE PRESTIGE
OPEN SEASON
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THE GUARDIAN

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OPEN SEASON

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
OPEN SEASON
THE PRESTIGE
THE GRUDGE 2
FLY BOYS
TILL I MET YOU
TXT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)0332013-17
OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
THE GUARDIAN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 985-6401-04
OPEN SEASON
THE DEPARTED
FLY BOYS
TXT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637081-85
TXT
OPEN SEASON
THE GRUDGE 2
THE PRESTIGE
MY FIRST WEDING
TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
TXT
OPEN SEASON
THE DEPARTED
TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
WICKER MAN
THE DEPARTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197830-39
WORLD TRADE CENTER
OPEN SEASON
FLY BOYS
TILL I MET YOU

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
THE PRESTIGE
TILL I MET YOU
TXT
THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341286-88
TILL I MET YOU
THE BREED
OPEN SEASON
TXT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
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WORLD TRADE CENTER
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OPEN SEASON
THE GUARDIAN
STEP UP
RESERVED
PULSE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976996
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OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
PULSE
STEP UP
THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
THE DEPARTED
OPEN SEASON
THE GUARDIAN
FLY BOYS

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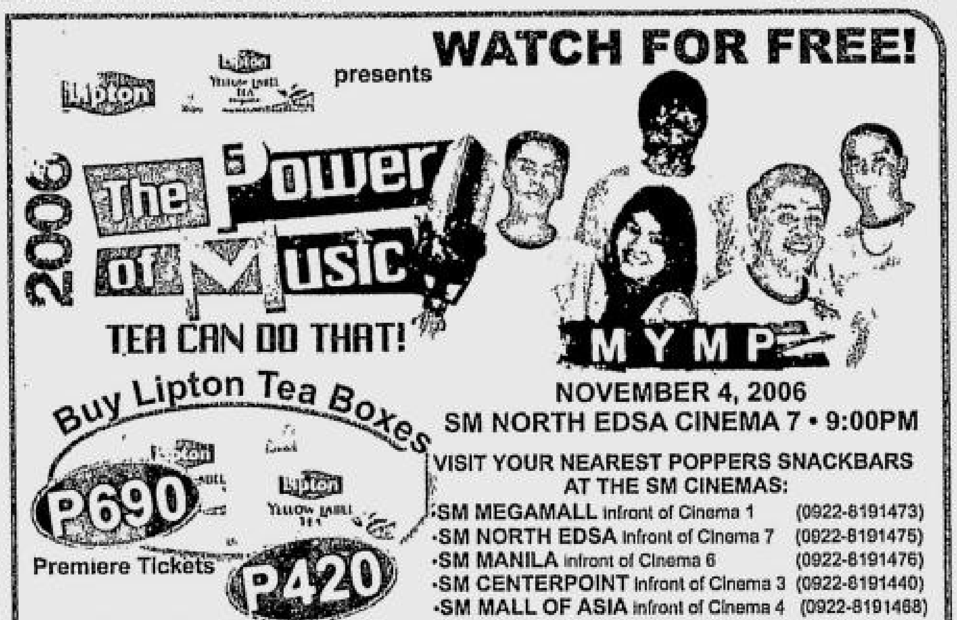
SHOWTIME Event Calendar



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- SM CENTERPOINT infront of Cinema 3 (0922-8191440)
- SM MALL OF ASIA infront of Cinema 4 (0922-8191468)

*For further details: please call 0922-7569014, 0920-9276293 or 714-3367

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEPARTED • THX
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 FEAST
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE BANQUET
8 TXT
9 THE GUARDIAN
10 TIL I MET YOU

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE PRESTIGE
7 FEAST

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT
5 THE PRESTIGE
6 FEAST
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

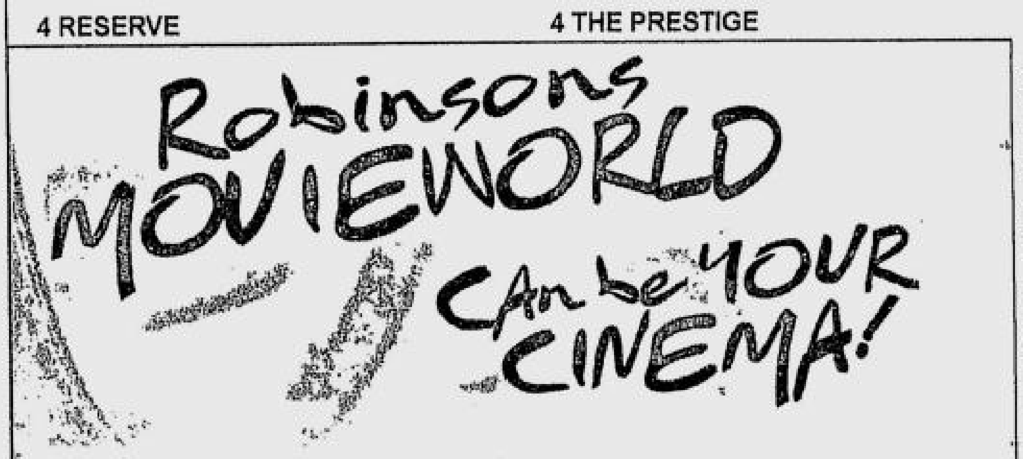
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 TILL I MET YOU

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 GHOST INSIDE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-6378

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 THE PRESTIGE



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2 THE BREED
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 OPEN SEASON
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

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2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 THE PRESTIGE

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2 TEH GRUDGE 2
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 TXT
6 MY FIRST WEDDING

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2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 STEP UP
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High hopes for Mutya ng Pilipinas Tourism

VERA EUMEE REITER

MUTYA NG PIL

By Armin Adina
Photo by Rudy Esperas

MUTYA NG PILIPINAS Vera Eumee Reiter will take part in the 2006 Miss Tourism International pageant with mixed emotions.

The 19-year-old Filipino-German lass is both excited and nervous because the Nov. 12 pageant to be held in Anhui province, China is her first international competition. But she is also sad because of her younger brother's recent demise.

Her 18-year-old brother Frank was found lifeless near their home in Baguio City last Oct. 5. Vera declined to give details about the death as she always ends up crying so hard talking about it. She explained that the incident was truly heartbreaking for the whole family.

Frank used to live with their German father Hans Volker Reiter in Baguio City. Her mother, Eufemia, works as an ophthalmologist in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

It was a painful loss, but something positive came out of it. "My dad started to open up to us, sharing thoughts that he used to keep to himself," shared Vera.

"And instead of backing out from the pageant, it made me even more determined to do my best," she said. "I met Frank's friends and they told me how proud he was of me, how he always bragged about me and my accomplishments."

The five-foot-seven Vera holds several crowns—Reyna ng Aliwan (Aliw Theater), Miss Agoo (La Union), Miss University of Baguio-HRM, Miss UB, Miss Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio and Miss Baguio X-treme.

After winning her first national title last June, she has been undergoing rigorous training doing the catwalk, taking interviews and using makeup. Her preparation was put to a stop when her brother died and she had to go home to Baguio.

But Vera assured Filipinos that she is "really prepared to represent the country well" in the pageant's 11th edition, the first to be held outside Malaysia.

Renee Salud will be providing Vera's pageant wardrobe. "All new, *ha. Bagong tahi*," said the veteran fashion designer, apparently alluding to other Filipino contestants who appear in recycled outfits.

And why does Vera deserve a new set of pageant clothes? "She is one of our greatest harvests. She's one of the prettiest!" exclaimed Renee.

Vera left for China yesterday, with the promise to bring home the title that Peachy Manzano won for the Philippines in 2000.

'RP Idol' suspends 4th eviction night

By Marinel R. Cruz

ANOTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEM INVOLVING telecommunications networks prompted organizers of the singing talent search program "Philippine Idol" to postpone its fourth elimination round on Sunday night, an ABC 5 executive said.

Telecommunications company Sun Cellular experienced intermittent Internet connections beginning 2 p.m. on Sunday, thus, failing to receive text votes sent through its system, according to Perci Intalan, ABC 5 vice president for Creative and Entertainment Production.

PERCI INTALAN: "This is a special situation."

Intalan added that Smart Telecoms also failed to confirm receipt of text votes sent to it since Sunday morning.

This was not the first time producers of the talent show rescheduled its eviction round. Last month, "Philippine Idol" experienced technical glitches when Typhoon "Milenyo" destroyed electrical and communication lines in most parts of Luzon.

"This is a special situation," Intalan said of the second postponement. "While Milenyo affected Luzon, this problem concerned the whole country. Honestly, up to the last minute, we were debating on whether to push through with the eliminations. We wanted to be fair to the voters and the finalists. Hopefully, this does not happen again."

This means two finalists from among Arms Cruz, Pow Chavez, Ken Dingle, Gian Magdangal, Apple Chiu, Miguel Mendoza, Jan Nieto, Jeli Mateo and Mau Marcelo will be booted out this weekend.

Intalan also announced that starting this week, "Philippine Idol" will be returning to its original timeslot—Sunday, 9 p.m. Results nights will be held every Monday.

"From the feedback we get, viewers complain of not being able to watch the performances because they are often out on Saturday nights. In fact, we have more viewers during results nights. *Doon kasi sila nasanay*," Intalan explained.

This week, the nine finalists will be performing with "Song of Your Life" as the show's theme.

OPENING TODAY

The Prestige

Stars Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Scarlett Johansson, David Bowie

Directed by Christopher Nolan

Two ambitious 19th-century magicians (Jackman and Bale) push the limits of their craft in a "brutal and bloody" rivalry. Based on a novel by Christopher Priest, the movie is directed by Christopher Nolan who masterminded "Memento" and "Batman Returns." Ethan Alter of Premiere points out: "If (it's) ... a letdown as a magic trick; it's more successful as a tale of obsession." David Ansen of Newsweek describes it as "a thriller aimed more at the cerebrum than the solar plexus ... You'll be rewarded." Stefan Halley of Pop Syndicate lauds its "sprawling, time-shifting narrative ... The period detail is sumptuous and the production design, opulent."

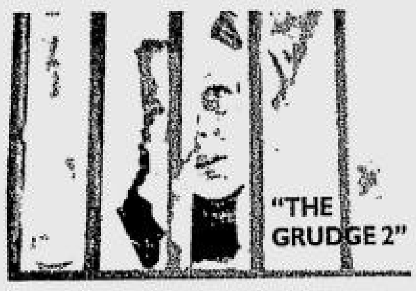
"FEAST"

Feast

Stars Krista Allen, Balthazar Getty, Navi Rawat, Judah Friedlander

Directed by John Gulager

This thriller boasts big-time producers Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, who bankrolled it, with "less than $5 million," through their "Project Greenlight" reality show on TV. Hewing closely to genre, a diverse group of barflies must fend off a carnivorous clan of creepy monsters. Scott Brown of Entertainment Weekly comments that the flick "annotates itself raw with self-awareness and winky excess." Maitland McDonagh of TV Guide.com dismisses it as "formulaic, smart-alecky and chaotic ... horror at its most reductive and least resonant." Pete Vonder Haar of Film Threat disagrees: "This is a superior horror film ... nasty, brutish and short."


"THE GRUDGE 2"

The Grudge 2

Stars Sarah Michelle Gellar, Amber Tamblyn, Jennifer Beals, Edison Chen

Directed by Takashi Shimizu

In this sequel to a Japanese-horror remake, the sister (Tamblyn) of the original's heroine (Gellar) rushes to Tokyo, to "foolishly" investigate the mysterious curse that drove her sibling bonkers. Lisa Rose of The Seattle Times complains that it's "meandering ... basically (repeating) the events of the first film. For all its visual audacity, (it's) quite predictable." Wesley Morris of Boston Globe agrees: "(It's) a sorry excuse for a payday ... In America, Shimizu's talent for metaphysical surprise turns into desperate gotcha moments and dubious dialogue." Nick Schager of Slant magazine is livid: "(It) merely confirms that the series (and, perhaps, the J-horror genre as a whole) has finally run its course."

"OPEN SEASON"

Open Season

With the voices of Martin Lawrence, Ashton Kutcher, Debra Messing, Gary Sinise

Directed by Jill Culton and Roger Allers

In a variation of "the pampered pet returns to the wild" fable, a trained bear (Lawrence) moves back to a remote forest clearing, with his naughty pal, a mule deer (Kutcher), in tow. Justin Chang of Variety hails it as "witty, warmly crafted ... it delivers its eco-friendly message sweetly and without belaboring the point." Kevin Crust of Los Angeles Times says it's "amusing ... a genial romp ... that can be enjoyed by all ages." Peter Hartlaub of San Francisco Chronicle is unimpressed: "Nothing seems new in the movie ... the animated children's film equivalent of 'Another 48 Hours.'"

"STICK IT"

Stick It

Stars Jeff Bridges, Missy Peregrym, Vanessa Lengies, Nikki SooHoo

Directed by Jessica Bendinger

After getting in trouble with the law, a rebellious girl (Peregrym) is forced to take up gymnastics, under the tutelage of a persistent trainer (Bridges). Claudia Puig of USA Today asserts that this "ho-hum comedy ... may be tough to stick to unless you're a girl between the ages of 11 and 16." Gary Thompson of Philadelphia Daily News says that it "lives up to its double-entendre title during its oddball finale." Kathy Cano Murillo of Arizona Republic states: "(This) teen sports comedy carries more substance than the trailer implies. (It) isn't groundbreaking material, but at least it keeps its balance."

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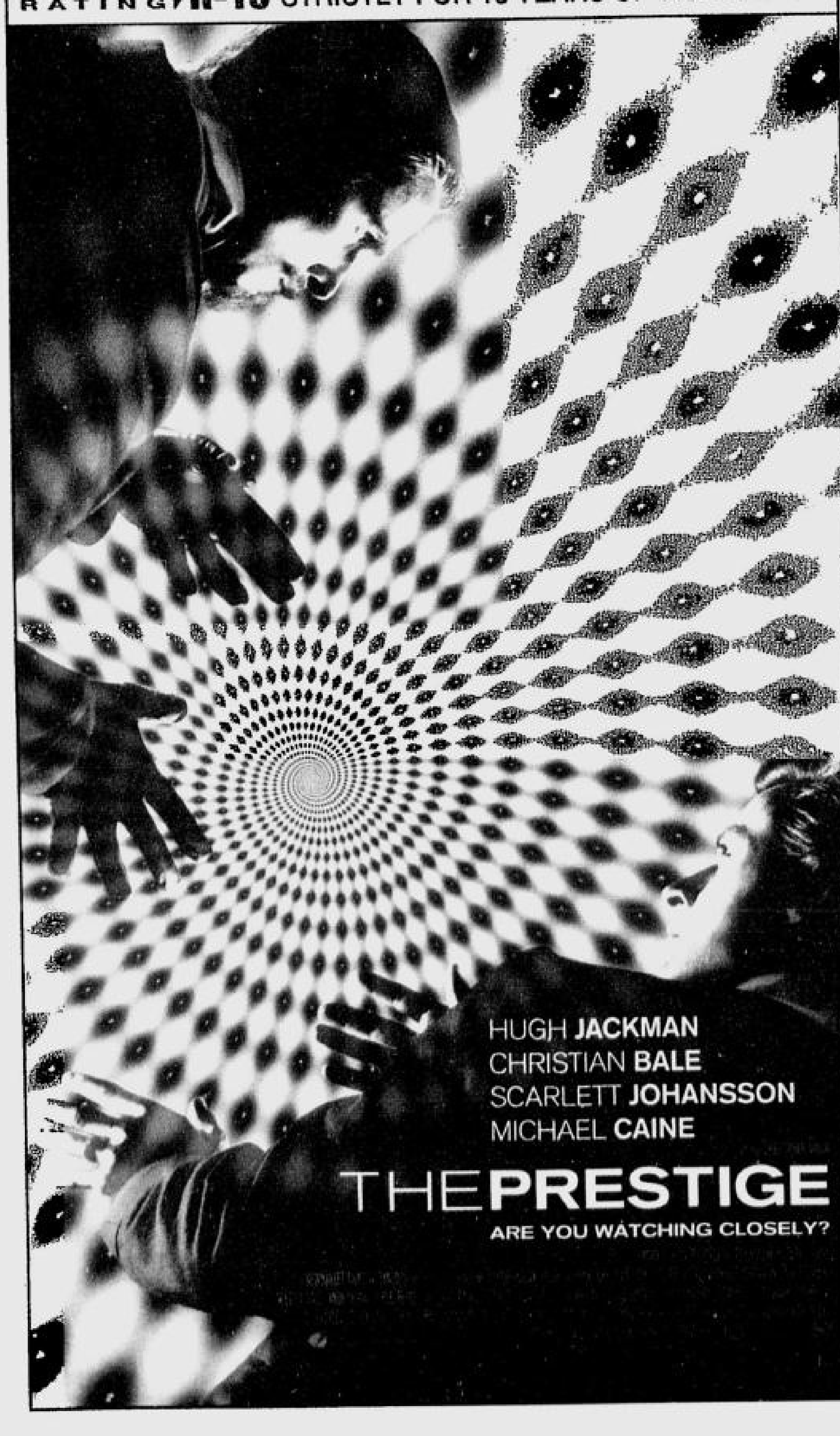
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SPORTS / A24

Carpenter helps Cardinals nail 2-1 series lead vs Tigers

METRO / A17

Taxi operators drop petition for P15 fare hike

BUSINESS / B1

Manufacturing output down 7% in August; traders blame smuggling

BUSINESS / B1

Easing of intellectual property rights law to lower medicine costs

Surrender fake coins, avoid arrest, say cops

BASAGAN NA NG ALKANSIYA!

By Alcuin Papa

SURRENDER FAKE COINS and avoid arrest, the Philippine National Police yesterday advised people holding counterfeit P5 and P10 coins.

"If you obtained the

SURRENDER/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, October 26, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 320 P18 website: www.inq7.net

4 WOMEN, 4 MEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SANTIAGO

GUTIERREZ

CARPIO

MARTINEZ

MORALES

CALLEJO

AZCUNA

PANGANIBAN

SC: Cha-cha bid a fraud

By 8-7 vote, court kills people's initiative

By Armand N. Nocum and TJ Burgonio

SAYING IT WOULD NOT ALlow itself to be a party to the "grand deception" of the Filipino people, the Supreme Court yesterday voted 8-7 to dismiss the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution preparatory to a shift to the unicameral-parliamentary system.

The high court said in a strongly worded decision that it would not allow the 1987 Constitution to be "set adrift ... in unchartered waters, to be tossed and turned by every dominant political group of the day"—an apparent rebuff of the vigorous campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia for Charter change.

The court said that no amount of signatures can change the Constitution contrary to specified modes, warning that "the alternative is an extra-constitutional change, which means subverting the people's sovereign will and discarding the Constitution."

The decision also said, "An initiative

SUPREME COURT/ A6

TJ MALARES/CONTRIBUTOR

ON WINGS OF A NEW LIFE: Betchel Banal, a Filipino working student, gives birth to a healthy boy on Wednesday aboard a KLM flight over Europe on her way home from Amsterdam. She was assisted by fellow passenger Anthony Roland Golez (at left).

Filipino baby delivered via first class

A FILIPINO BABY COULDN'T WAIT TO be delivered yesterday, even if his mother was still on board a KLM plane over Europe.

Betchel Banal, a 22-year-old Filipino working student on the way home from Amsterdam, delivered the baby boy, premature but healthy, on board Flight No. KL 0803.

The plane had to land in Kazakhstan on the way to Manila when the mother broke her water bag and began experiencing labor pains. Responding doctors had no time to bring Banal to hospital.

They could only watch as Filipino doctor Anthony Roland Golez, a passenger on the same flight, and flight stewardess AC Van Waut assisted Banal's otherwise normal delivery in the plane's first-class cabin.

Golez, deputy administrator of the Office for Civil Defense, was with the party of Presidential Adviser Rafael

FILIPINO BABY/ A4

Carpio's opening paragraph says it all

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

(First of two parts)

ANALYSIS

THE OPENING PARAGRAPH OF THE opinion of Justice Antonio Carpio, who penned the Supreme Court's main opinion, says it all:

"The Lambino group miserably failed to comply with the basic requirements of the Constitution for conducting a people's initiative. Thus, there is even no need to revisit Santiago, as the present petition warrants dismissal based alone on the Lambino group's glaring failure to comply with the basic requirements of the Constitution. For following the court's ruling in Santiago, no grave abuse of discretion is attributable to the Commission on Elections."

[Raul Lambino's group, Sigaw ng Bayan, had petitioned the Supreme Court to nullify a decision of the Commission on Elections junking its bid to amend the Charter through a people's initiative. The Santiago decision refers to the court's ruling on March 19, 1997 that Republic Act No. 6735, the law regulating the people's right of initiative, was "inadequate to cover the system of initiative on amendments to the Constitution and to have failed to provide sufficient standard for subordinate legislation." Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was the main petitioner].

CARPIO'S/ A13

DENR opposed waste dumping in trade deal but gave in to DTI

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LETTERS SAID IT ALL: Protesting environment officials caved in to trade negotiators who were then hammering out an "all-or-nothing" deal.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources tried but failed to stop the government from including toxic and hazardous wastes from the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, yielding to pressure.

Then Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor wrote the Department of Trade and Industry, stressing the DENR's opposition not only to the proposed zero tariff on hazardous wastes under the JPEPA but even the initial negotiations on waste trade.

DENR/ A13

Senate indignant, CBCP sad over 'toxic' accord

ARCHBISHOP ANGEL LAGdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, yesterday said he was saddened by the agreement that environmentalists fear would turn the Philippines into Japan's dump for toxic wastes.

Indignation was also voiced in the Senate and calls were made for an investigation of the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA). Under the Constitution, the Senate ratifies treaties entered into by the government.

Sen. Pia Cayetano has long urged Malacañang to transmit the agreement to the Senate for the chamber's scrutiny. "I can't see any reason why the government should continue keeping the public in the dark on our com-

SENATE/ A13

GUIMARAS OIL SPILL

There's hope in PBSP's livelihood rehab plan

Semirara folk start rebuilding lives

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

SEMIRARA ISLAND, ANTIQUE—Ten months after a massive oil spill polluted this island, residents have begun slowly rebuilding their lives, away from media glare now focused on Guimaras that is reeling from the nation's worst environmental disaster.

Fishermen and shell gatherers say their catch has slowly increased although it is still less than before the oil spill.

"It's a bit better," says Ildefonso Decanta, 49, a fisherman from Barangay Semirara, of his catch in recent months. He now gets at least five kilos of fish per day.

SEMIRARA FOLK/ A4

NESTOR P. BURGOS/INQUIRER VISAYAS

GRIM SCENE on Semirara Island, Antique 10 months ago foreshadows the Guimaras experience.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(Last of a series)

I-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

THERE IS HOPE.

This is the battle cry of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the country's leading corporate-led nongovernment organization, as it takes on the challenging role of crafting and implementing a long-term livelihood rehabilitation program for the fisherfolk and other residents affected by the oil spill in Guimaras.

Covered by PBSP's three- to five-year Guimaras Area Resource Management (ARM) Program are the estimated 4,019 households, primarily from the municipalities of Nueva Valencia and Sibunag, whose income from fishing, seaweed farming and aquaculture was slashed by the oil spill.

PBSP estimated that it would take as much as P90.96 million to bankroll all the livelihood projects outlined in its area resource management program, of which P52.64 million would be shouldered by the private sector led by PBSP.

This would go to the purchase of seedlings, seaweed materials, fish stocks and training.

A total of P10.16 million will

THERE'S HOPE/ A4

Second FRONTPAGE
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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the eastern section of Luzon. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/25/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

AFP tightens guard on coup suspects

By Dona Pazzibugan

QUERUBIN

THE MILITARY HAS TIGHTENED security around six Marine colonels suspected of leading a coup plot last February to a more secure location amid talk of an escape plot.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday ordered the transfer of six of the 13 detained Marine officers to a naval detention facility in Cavite.

Navy Spokesperson Commander Giovanni Carlo Bacordo said that reports that rogue troops would spring the officers as part of fresh attempts to destabilize the government prompted the transfer to Fort San Felipe in Cavite City.

Esperon said there was a plot to spring Col. Ariel Querubin, one of the alleged ringleaders, and five other colonels from inside their detention cells in the Fort Bonifacio Marine headquarters.

Querubin's lawyer denied that his client, a bemedalled former Marine brigade commander, was planning to escape.

"My client won't allow that. He did nothing wrong," said lawyer Rodrigo Artuz, who said the military was making up the story to justify the transfer.

Escape try

Esperon ordered the transfer as military prosecutors submitted the findings of their pre-trial investigation of 38 officers—25 Scout Rangers led by ex-commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and 13 Marines led by ex-commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda—linked to the Feb. 24 coup plot.

A source close to the investigation said Col. Al Perreras, deputy chief of the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago), submitted the report to Esperon yesterday.

The three-man Jago panel was tasked to determine if there was sufficient evidence to try any of the 38 officers before a court martial.

Aside from Querubin, the other Marine officers to be transferred are Col. Orlando de Leon, former chief of staff; Col. Januario Caringal; Lt. Col. Armando Bañez, former deputy commandant for plans and programs; Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon, former deputy commandant for operations; and Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, former battalion commander.

Querubin and Parcon are recipients of the Medal of Valor, the military's highest honor.

Bacordo said the transfer would be made "anytime now" but the six were still at Fort Bonifacio as of press time.

Of the officers and enlisted men undergoing investigation for involvement in the February coup plot, those from the Scout Ranger regiment, led by Lim, are being detained in a maximum security facility in the Army's Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

All 13 Marine officer suspects were being held in a staff house at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio, although Esperon has said he would prefer that they be detained at Fort San Felipe.

On Tuesday night, text messages spread that Esperon had ordered the transfer of the six Marine colonels to Camp Capinpin, but Navy Flag Officer in Command Admiral Mateo Mayuga is said to have "interceded" so Esperon agreed that they be transferred instead to the Sangley Point naval base, also in Cavite City.

The Navy initially dismissed the text messages as "rumors."

In a text message yesterday, Esperon said that if Mayuga were to decide on Sangley Point, he would support the decision. In the event, Mayuga chose Fort San Felipe.

Plea refusal

Esperon, who was Army chief at the time of the attempted coup last Feb. 24, has vowed to swiftly convene a court martial panel should the pre-trial investigators recommend it.

He has submitted an affidavit to investigators in support of charges that Lim and Querubin, with Miranda's knowledge, planned to lead a mass withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo last Feb. 24.

Meanwhile, three of the six fugitive Magdalo officers who were recaptured last July were finally arraigned yesterday before a Quezon City court.

The six are part of the group of junior officers, who style themselves as the Magdalo group, who were arrested for the July 2003 failed coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny.

First Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, 2nd Lieutenants Angelbert Gay and Aldrin Baldonado refused to enter a plea to charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives, prompting the court to plead not guilty on their behalf.

Only two more Magdalo soldiers, 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava, have not been arraigned.

The two had petitioned the Department of Justice to review their case, and had asked Judge Rosanna Fe Romero-Maglaya of Quezon City Regional Trial Court to postpone their arraignment while the DOJ acts on the petition. *With a report from DJ Yap*

PALACE CALL. President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes members of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing during yesterday's courtesy call in Malacañang. Shaking hands with the President is Faith Fields, president of the council, while Ruth Ann Terry, Dr. Casey Marks and Fraser Cagill (left to right) look on. They are here to monitor developments in the recent nursing test leak scandal. LYN RILLON

US keenly watching nursing leak

By Christine O. Avendaño

A US BODY THAT GIVES LICENSURE examinations to Filipino nurses aspiring to work in hospitals and health institutions in the United States is closely watching how the Philippine government will resolve the controversy over the nursing leak examination.

"We will definitely be waiting for the outcome of the issue (nursing leak controversy) that you have here and seeing how you handle that issue...," said Faith Fields, the newly elected president of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), after meeting yesterday with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

The NCSBN develops the National Council Licensure Examinations for nurses, which is taken by more than 9,000 Filipino nurses yearly.

"We're looking forward to seeing how you handle that issues that you have," Fields told reporters after the Palace meeting.

Fields said that 80 percent of the foreign nurses that go to the US came from the Philippines "and so we're very interested to see that you handle the crisis." Asked how the leakage of the June 2006 nursing board exam would affect the credibility of Filipino nurses, Fields merely reiterated their interest on how the government would handle it. "That you simply do nothing would be a mistake but you analyze it and that you take some action as the result of the leakage," she said.

"You have to understand that the entire world is watching what the Philippines does here and so you definitely will need to take some action, but that is up to the Philippines to do," said Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and task force on NCLEX, who accompanied Fields and other officials to the Palace meeting.

Ang said the government should show that "we do not condone leakages or anomalies. *Itatama natin siguro dapat dahil hahanap nila kung ano gawin natin* after this (We have to correct this perhaps because they will watch what we will do after this)," Ang told reporters.

Malacañang later issued a statement about the meeting, quoting Fields and other NCSBN officials with her that they were "still hopeful and confident of our partnership in terms of nursing education."

The statement quoted Ms Arroyo as telling the officials that she was aware of the negative impact of the nursing leak exam controversy on Filipino nurses seeking work abroad. "But we are able to identify those who were involved in the nursing leakage and we are bent on filing criminal charges," the President told them.

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces that the following are applicants for different judicial positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (REGION II) – BALLESTEROS, CAGAYAN: (Br. 33) **ANDRES**, Fred Q.; **BINARAO**, Jose N.; **CABALBAG**, Marcelo C.; **DONATO**, Francisco S.; **PATTUGALAN**, Nathaniel, C.; **PLATA**, Ruben R.; **ZALDIVAR**, Oscar T.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC): (REGION II) – TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN: (Br. 2) **AGLAUA**, Racquel Reyes.; **BACULI**, Rene B.; **CARAG**, Jesusa Liquigan; **GAÑAC**, Norman C.; **ISRAEL**, Maita Grace Deray; **LAXA**, Regina Balmores; **MORALES**, Raul S.; **ORRO**, Edgar S.; **REYES**, Isidro S. ***(REGION XII)- ILIGAN CITY, LANAO DEL NORTE: (Br.2)*** **CABILI**, Tomas O.; **DAJAO**, Samson N.; **DAMAYO**, Andrew D.; **DISALO**, Gamor B.; **EDRES**, Anuar A.; **GALLARDO**, Orlando C.; **LABINDAO**, Dymphna Gozon; **MACARAYA**, Joel M.; **MACUMBAL**, Arassad M.; **MARANGIT**, Sittie Gumana; **MENCIAS**, Angel C.; **QUINONES**, Leonor Sumugat; **RUELO**, Earl Charito J.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC): (REGION II) – CAMALANIUGAN, CAGAYAN: **DORADO**, Nora Medinaceli; **OLERIANA**, Olga Lopez; **QUILANG**, Domingo III B.; ***STA. ANA, CAGAYAN:*** **CORTES**, Neljoe A.; **DORADO**, Nora Medinaceli; **OLERIANA**, Olga Lopez; **QUILANG**, Domingo III B. ***ECHAGUE, ISABELA:*** **CABRERA**, Rudy J.; **DE LOS SANTOS**, German L.; **VIDEZ**, Michelle Gumpal; ***BAMBANG, NUEVA VIZCAYA:*** **ALLAS**, Catherine Bangi; **GALICINAO**, Rosalie Dallong, **GARCIA**, Charlotte Felipe; **NUESTRO**, Gregorio P.; **RASING**, Nerissa Leal.

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC). (REGION II) – CLAVERIA-STA PRAXEDES, CAGAYAN: **DORADO**, Nora Medinaceli; **OLERIANA**, Olga Lopez; **RUIZ**, Maria Teresa Aducayan; ***ALLACAPAN-LASAM, CAGAYAN:*** **CORTES**, Neljoe A.; **DORADO**, Nora Medinaceli; **OLERIANA**, Olga Lopez; **RUIZ**. Maria Teresa Aducayan ***PIAT-STO. NIÑO, CAGAYAN:*** **CASTILLO, Edmar Jr. P.; OLERIANA, Olga Lopez; PAUIG, Domingo A.** ***APARRI-CALAYAN, CAGAYAN: (Brs, 1 & 2):*** **CORTES**, Neljoe A.; **DORADO**, Nora Medinaceli; **OLERIANA**, Olga Lopez; **PINZON**, Fervyn C.; ***VILLAVERDE-QUEZON, NUEVA VIZCAYA:*** **CORPUZ**, Rogelio P.; **GALICINAO**, Rosalie Dallong; **GARCIA**, Charlotte Felipe; **NUESTRO**, Gregorio P. ***ARITAO-STA. FE, NUEVA VIZCAYA:*** **GALICINAO**, Rosalie Dallong; **GARCIA**, Charlotte Felipe; **NUESTRO**, Gregorio P.; **RASING**, Nerissa Leal ***BANAUE-HUNGDUAN, IFUGAO:*** **CABBIGAT**, Frederic T.; **HUMIWAT**, Jocelyn, Pespea; **MORALES**, Ivan Kim B.; **NAMUJHE**, Jesse Haris B.; ***LAMUT-KIANGAN-TINOC, IFUGAO:*** **CABBIGAT**, Frederic T.; **HUMIWAT**, Jocelyn Pespea; **MORALES**, Ivan Kim B.; **NAMUJHE**, Jesse Haris B.; ***POTIA-AGUINALDO-MAYOYAO, IFUGAO:*** **CABBIGAT**, Frederic T.; **NAMUJHE**, Jesse Haris B.; **WANDAG**, Basilio A.; ***LAGAWE-HINGYON, IFUGAO:*** **CABBIGAT**, Frederic T.; **HUMIDING**, Jennifer Palaguitang; **HUMIWAT**, Jocelyn Pespea. **MORALES**, Ivan Kim B.; **NAMUJHE**, Jesse Haris B.; ***SIERRA BULLONES-PILAR, BOHOL:*** **BARBARONA**, Raul P.; **BILIRAN**, Samuel A.; **MAYOL**, Wilfredo T.; **DAGALA**, Exequil L.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than November 06, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., P. Faura, Manila (Tel. 552-9512 Fax 552-9598).

All applicants for all judicial positions must submit to the JBC Secretariat ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form 1, current cellphone and landline numbers, and current residence and e-mail addresses.

October 26, 2006

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court &
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI-October 26, 2006)

20 Filipinos saved as ship runs aground

TOKYO—JAPAN'S COAST GUARD MObilized helicopters to rescue crew members of two ships that ran aground at a northeastern Japanese port, an official said Wednesday.

All 20 Filipino crew members of the Panamanian-registered Ellida Ace were rescued early Wednesday and none of them were injured, according to coast guard official Shigeyuki Sato.

The 85,350-ton ship ran aground Tuesday after being driven away from the waterway near Kashima port due to heavy winds.

The coast guard also rescued 10 of the 24 crew members of the Chinese-registered cargo vessel Ocean Victory, Sato said, adding that the rescue operation was continuing. He said that there were no reports of injuries among the crew.

The 88,853-ton vessel was trying to make a turn to avoid high waves as it was leaving a pier, and ran aground in shallow water nearby Tuesday.

The port is 95 kilometers northeast of Tokyo.

Earlier this month near Kashima, another Panamanian-registered ship, the Giant Step, ran aground in stormy weather after catching fire.

Sixteen sailors from the Giant Step were rescued after the 98,587-ton freighter broke up about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the port, but eight of crew members were later found dead and two others are still missing. Those dead and missing were all Indians. *AP*

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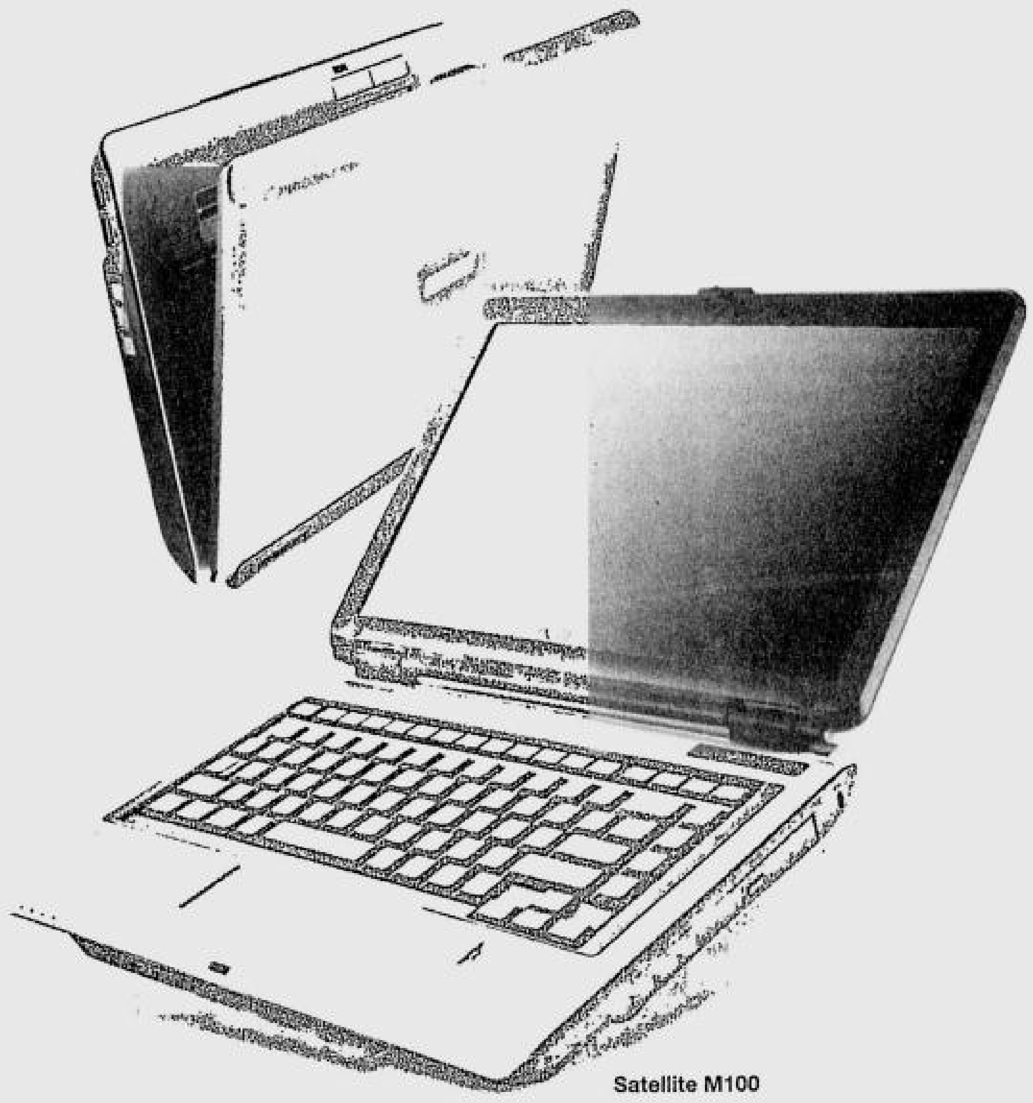

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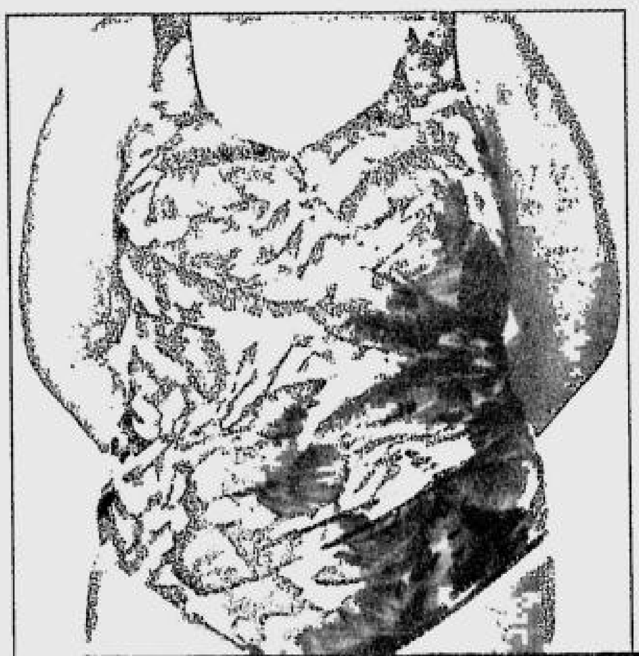

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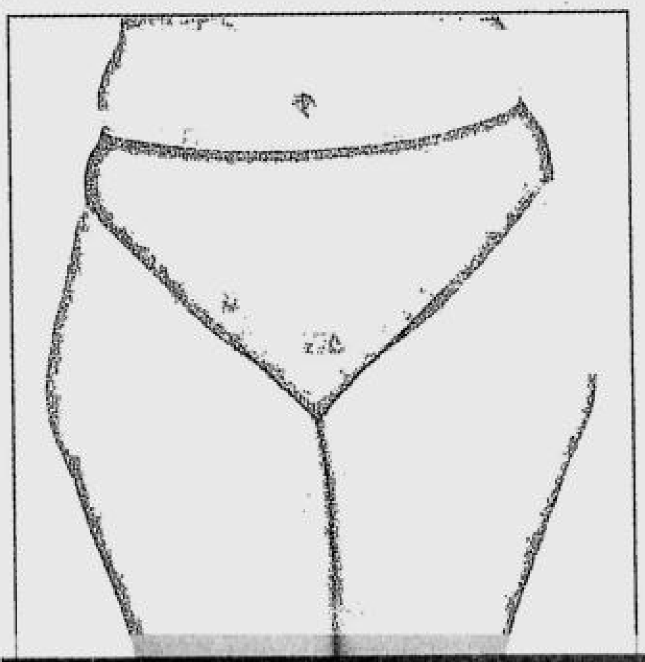

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Semirara folk start rebuilding lives

From page A1

which he sells at P50 per kilo. But he hopes this will increase to 10 kilos, just like before the oil spill.

Nenita Genivacio, 62, says she now gets five plastic packs of shells daily. She sells each pack for P15 to P20. This is still lower than the 10 packs she used to gather, but she believes things will get better.

On Dec. 18, 2005, a National Power Corp. barge, battered by strong winds and waves, ran aground off Semirara Island as it was being towed by a tugboat to Oriental Mindoro from Masbate.

About 360,000 liters of bunker fuel was spilled from the nearly 900,000 liters stored in the barge's four fuel tanks, causing damage to mangroves and marine life in parts of the 5,045-hectare island.

Part of a group of nine islands of Caluya town in Antique, the affected area is the site of Semirara Mining Corp., the biggest coal mine in the country.

Decanta and Genivacio were among the 250 residents hired by Napocor to clean up the oil spill that contaminated about 113 hectares of mangrove forests, fish sanctuaries and fishponds. Decanta said she earned P150 daily for two months that she worked in the cleanup operations.

Compensation

Napocor also gave P6.7 million in damages to 180 residents affected by the oil spill: P5,400 each for shell gatherers and between P48,000 to P84,000 for fishermen.

On Friday, Napocor formally turned over P2.29 million to the Semirara Aquafarmers and Fisherfolks Association Inc. (Seaffas) for an alternative livelihood project. The money will be used to purchase five fishing boats, including a deep-sea fishing vessel capable of carrying 40 people and a load of 15 tons of catch.

Napocor spokesperson Dennis Gana said the compensation and livelihood project were part of the P13 million that Napocor had allotted to pay back residents and rehabilitate their communities. He said Napocor would monitor the implementation of the livelihood project for one year.

Semirara village head Reynante Lim Sr. said residents had asked for more deep-sea fishing boats from Napocor so that more fishermen and gleaners could be given livelihood.

Mangrove nursery

Freddie Magtuto, community environment and natural resources officer, said residents set up a mangrove nursery at the site of the oil spill with the planting of 3,000 seedlings.

They also asked for a P2-million budget for the rehabilitation of the mangrove areas and were expecting the release of P500,000 soon.

On Sept. 14, the Philippine Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection Command issued a final certificate of completion, which was signed by Commander Allen Toribio, to attest that Napocor had completed the cleanup of about 113 hectares of oil-contaminated shoreline and mangroves.

In contrast, Guimaras is getting all the help it can get. Because of the larger affected population and the massive threat to marine life in the region, media have given publicity to the environmental crisis that has hit Guimaras following the sinking in stormy weather on Aug. 11 of the MT Solar I while it was ferrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

There's hope in PBSP's livelihood rehabilitation plan

From page A1

come from government, P23.71 million from other nongovernment organizations and P4.45 million from the community itself.

Data from the provincial government showed that daily fish catch in the area went down from an average of 5 to 10 kilograms a day to just one to two after the MT Solar I sank on Aug. 11 in rough weather off Guimaras while ferrying for Petron 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil from Bataan to Zamboanga del Sur.

Over 107 hectares of seaweed farms and 542 hectares devoted to milkfish production were affected, and fish cages and fish pens worth P57 million were destroyed.

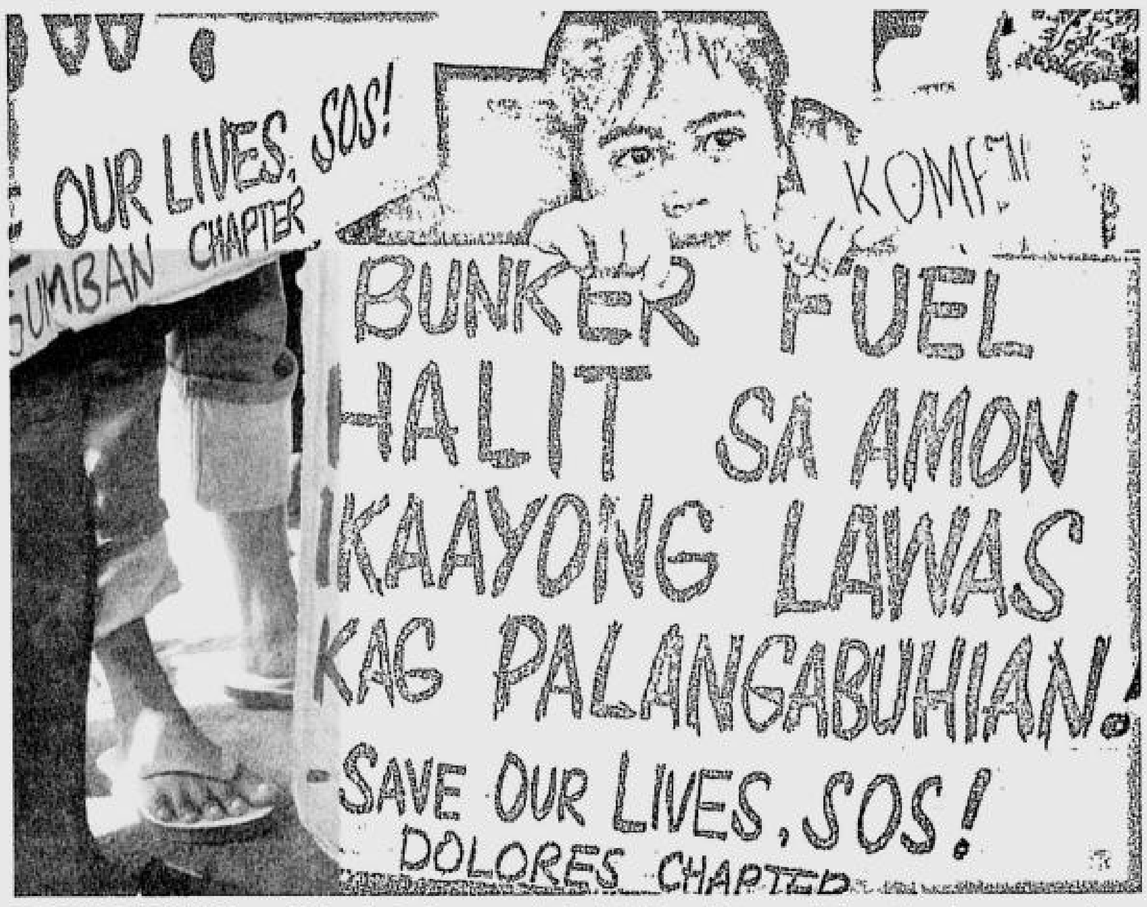
PBSP deputy executive director Ramon Derige told the INQUIRER that because the affected residents were mostly fishermen, top priority would be given to exploring the possibility of allowing them to fish or grow seaweed outside the affected waters and within the boundaries of neighboring municipalities.

Because as many as four out of every five affected residents either own land or have access to land, PBSP has included shifting the fishermen to vegetable production and poultry and livestock raising in its short-term strategy.

Temporary access to land

For the 20 percent who totally depend on the sea for their livelihood, Derige said PBSP was talking to absentee landowners about the possibility of giving these fishermen temporary access to their land.

PBSP is likewise exploring possible subcontracting schemes with firms involved in handicraft production in Cebu and Iloilo.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SAVE OUR LIVES, SOS!
DOLORES CHAPTER

PRAYER RALLY in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, asks for help from Petron and the national government. The ralliers cite the health hazards pose by the massive oil spill, the unsafe drinking water, and fishermen who can't go fishing because there's no fish.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Derige said that with enough training under PBSP Cebu's workforce development program, Guimaras residents could be tapped to produce semi-finished goods for final processing in either Cebu or Iloilo.

Over the long term, the locals are encouraged to diversify into production of mangoes and cashew, which are among the traditional agricultural products of Guimaras, according to Derige.

"The provincial government is also looking to plant jatropha (an oil-bearing plant), but it still has to be determined if it will be planted for domestic or industrial use," Derige said.

Resource mobilization

Derige said PBSP was in the resource mobilization stage although PBSP had received pledges from its member-companies, primarily from Petron, which contracted the Solar I to deliver bunker oil.

He expressed confidence that the Guimaras ARM would meet the same success as the other PBSP-adopted areas in the country because the program is long-term and was developed in close coordination with the provincial government, local leaders, civic groups and the residents themselves.

"We cannot go in if our commitment will not be for the long term," Derige said, "and livelihood is what we are concentrating on because we believe it is here where we can be of most help."

IOPC approves siphoning

On Monday, the executive committee of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund approved financing for the siphoning of the remaining oil in the tanker sitting on the sea floor off Guimaras, Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, reported from London.

Coscolluela, who supervises the recovery effort in Guirmaras, said that IOPC would fund the retrieval operation. A formal resolution will be released on Friday, he said.

Petron has commissioned studies to retrieve the remaining oil in the sunken tanker and the rehabilitation of the environment and the affected communities.

A group of scholars and scientists from Silliman University is continuing to monitor any long-term effects on the coral, the mangrove forests, and the sea grasses in the areas affected.

Another study Petron has commissioned is the long-term effects on sea grasses, under the direction of Dr. Josette Biyo of the Philippine Science High School-Visayas.

The Biyo team has visited the affected areas three times since the oil spill on Aug. 11, and will do monthly monitoring.

Over the next year, the Biyo group plans to do a quarterly assessment of the sea grass population and reproductive dynamics, particularly species composition, sea grass cover, density, abundance and flowering frequency. They have reported that around 100-500 meters from the shore sea grasses continue to grow in abundance.

Scientists from various universities are currently conducting a 10-week study of Guimaras. This is the first comprehensive study of an oil spill in a tropical setting and the findings of the scientists will be the basis for the government's long-term plans for the rehabilitation of Guimaras.

Their findings will be presented to a roundtable conference toward the last week of November. Here, all parties concerned will try to assess scientifically and dispassionately all the thorny issues of environmental and scientific rehabilitation.

The scientists hope that all those who want to help Guimaras, including the private sector, will consider their recommendations for the future of the island.

Filipino baby delivered via KLM first class

From page A1

Coscolluela, which attended a meeting of international insurers that agreed to finance recovery operations following the oil spill in Guimaras.

The mother and baby were brought by ambulance to a hospital in the city of Amishtan, where they will stay until declared fit to travel home presumably to Cagayan de Oro, the mother's hometown, said Coscolluela, who reported the event to the INQUIRER.

Golez, a public health physician who served for almost two years in CL Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Bacolod City, was praised by flight crew members for "coolness under fire."

This was a first-time experience for everyone who witnessed the drama. Flight steward DJ Macares took the photograph, which shows the baby with the happy mother, Golez and Van Waut. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Surrender fake coins, avoid arrest, say cops

From page A1

coins through a legitimate transaction, turn them in to show good faith and no charges will be filed against you," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said.

He said possession of fake coins could be considered a violation of the Revised Penal Code.

Pagdilao told reporters that the police had been receiving reports about the proliferation of the fake coins.

"We want to help the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) to account for and [remove from circulation] the fake coins. It does not do well for our currency and our economy," Pagdilao said.

The PNP and other concerned agencies have been conducting operations against counterfeiters.

Last week, operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation seized fake P10 and P5 coins with the face value of P5 million from Taiwanese Yung Sung Liu, aka Asyong Lao and Chih-Chah, of Barangay Dalandanan, Valenzuela City.

A few days later, a businessman turned over almost P40,000 worth of fake P10 coins to the NBI in Parañaque City.

The businessman surrendered the coins after learning of the arrest of the Taiwanese who was allegedly selling and distributing the counterfeit coins.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 22 ISSUE, a Lifestyle story on Page D1—"Easy, enticing Brunei"—misstated that Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah is the 26th ruler of Brunei. Bolkiah is the 29th ruler of Brunei.

* * *

THE SAME STORY MISSTATED the name of the museum containing the royal finery and gifts from heads of state. The royal finery and gifts are stored in the Royal Regalia Museum—not the Brunei Museum.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 23 ISSUE, an Across the Nation story on Page A20—"Guyito joins Bicol scholars"—misstated the name of one of the students from the Philippine Science High School-Bicol Region Campus and her position in the school paper. The student's name is Julliane—not Juliane—Moira Sy. She is the school paper's editor in chief—not the associate editor.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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2 Philcomsat execs face graft raps

TWO GOVERNMENT-NOMINATED directors of the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corporation (Philcomsat) have been charged with violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices before the Office of the Ombudsman in Quezon City.

Accused were Manuel D. Andal and Enrique L. Locsin, both government nominees in the board of directors of Philcomsat. They were also accused of violation of the Code of Conduct Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees, according to the press statement by the complainant Marietta K. Ilusorio.

Ilusorio, a stockholder of Philcomsat Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of Philcomsat which is under sequestration and management by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, filed criminal and administrative charges against the two. She asked the Ombudsman to place the two officials under preventive suspension pending resolution of the case.

Ilusorio claimed that from 2003 to 2005, Andal and Locsin received salaries and bonuses of P300,000 each year, in violation of the presidential memorandum fixing the allowances of government-nominated directors in sequestered corporations at not more than P3,400 monthly and their directors' fee amount more than P120,000 per annum for a total of P160,000 annually.

Citing official Philcomsat documents, Ilusorio said that Andal had received a housing loan from the company amounting to P1,758,377 as of 2004. Locsin also had an outstanding loan of P1,854,989 as of 2004.

Ilusorio said that financial arrangements constitutes violation both of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees and the Anti-Graft Practices Act.

Ilusorio stated that the respondents, as government nominees, had made PHC a "milking cow which has been bled dry by the very same persons tasked by the government to protect it."

AGRI TURNOVER

Incoming Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap receives the banner from outgoing Secretary Domingo Panganiban during yesterday's turnover of the department to its new secretary. Yap was reappointed to the position after he was cleared of tax evasion charges. Panganiban, a career agriculture official, was named to the National Anti-Poverty Commission. JOAN BONDOC

DTI bans surcharges on credit card sales

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry has ordered a ban on surcharges on retail transactions using credit cards, debit cards and automated teller machine cards, starting Nov. 5.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the new policy was part of a campaign to protect consumers from unfair trade practices.

He said Department Administrative Order No. 10 Series of 2006 would protect consumers from dubious price tag practices by giving more teeth to Republic Act 7394, or the Consumer Act.

DAO 10 prohibits any surcharge, extra charge or additional charge over and above the price tag on items purchased using cards for payment.

"A number of retailers have been charging differently on specific items depending on the client's mode of payment," Favila said.

"Usually, purchases using credit card are priced higher than those paid with cash, and this discriminates against the cardholders," he said.

He said that under DAO 10, all modes of payment available to consumers must always comply with the Price Tag Law.

"When the consumer opts to pay either through cash or card, he or she should pay only what is stated on the price tag. There should only be a single price tag indicating the cost of each item," he said.

The DTI order also requires that the option to pay in cash, card or installment be disclosed to the consumer, if the information is not indicated in the price tag.

The price tag should be inclusive of the value-added tax for items covered by the VAT.

"It is unlawful to charge an additional tax over the price tag," Favila said.

DAO 10 specifies the proper format of an official receipt. It says the price opposite each item should already incorporate the amount of tax to be paid. The total cost that the consumer should pay is stated and the sum of the tax is shown as a separate item in the receipt.

GMA acts to curb credit card fraud

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has created a task force to stop the rising incidence of credit card fraud in the country as more Filipinos use "plastic money" for transactions.

In Executive Order No. 573, the President tapped Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to head an Anti-Fraud Task Force composed of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police to strengthen Republic Act 8484, or the Access Device Regulation Act of 1998.

"The occurrence of credit card fraud is increasing and acquiring banks incur huge losses and suffer stunted credit card sales, ultimately threatening the survival of the credit card industry, including the negative repercussions in the domestic economy," the President said in the order that she signed yesterday.

She said credit card fraud was a "form of economic sabotage as it creates a bad image for the country in the global market" at a time when the government was moving to boost tourism.

The Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP) earlier appealed to Malacañang to give more teeth to its laws against fraudsters using illegally obtained information from credit cards, obtained mostly through store or restaurant personnel.

The CCAP complained that most of credit card fraudsters were able to walk away and disappear after being caught because of the absence of guidelines to govern the implementation of the country's anti-fraud laws.

Although credit card fraud is not as widespread here as in other countries—constituting less than one percent of credit card transactions here—the CCAP said there was a need for safeguards because of the inadequate security features of most credit cards in the country. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

GMA goes after 'ghosts' in gov't

DESPITE THE SETBACK IN ITS BID to get Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay out of city hall for allegedly maintaining 'ghost employees', Malacañang is still bent on flushing out all so-called "ghost employees" from the payroll of all government agencies, state corporations and local government units.

In a memorandum signed yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to "review the table of organization, plantilla positions and conduct an audit of all personnel of all departments and agencies, including government owned and controlled corporations with the end view of ferreting out 'ghost employees' in their organizations, if any."

The President also directed Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno to ensure that LGUs comply with all laws, rules and regulations in the hiring of their employees, including the prohibition against the hiring of 'ghost employees'.

Both Andaya and Puno are expected to submit their recommendations to the President within the next two months on how to prevent 'ghost employees' from being on the government payroll.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was adamant in denying that the order was meant to put pressure Binay who managed to obtain a court order stopping the 60-day preventive suspension ordered by Malacañang.

Binay was accused of hiring 'ghost employees' and the DILG wanted the Makati mayor suspended to pave the way for an investigation.

"This is part of the drive against graft and corruption. It's just a reminder for them to take a look at their own backyard so that they won't be charged. We will not tolerate this (ghost employees) because this is illegal," said Ermita.

The crackdown on 'ghost employees' is timely considering that a number of city hall officials all over the country are being investigated for placing their relatives and household help on the government payroll although they do not do any work for the government.

Ermita said the President's order was meant to complement Executive Order No. 366, entitled "Directing a Strategic Review of the Operations and Organizations of Executive Branch and Providing Options and Incentives for Government Employees Who May Be Affected by the Rationalization of the Functions and Agencies of the Executive Branch." *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Graft prober probed for graft

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ANTI-CORRUPTION TASK FORCE Of the Department of Finance is itself embroiled in internal squabbles over the lifestyle of some of its members.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves confirmed that one of the intelligence officers of the DOF who was being investigated for alleged extortion activities countered with his own charges of unexplained wealth against the finance undersecretary who heads the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS).

Teves said Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., who heads the RIPS, may be asked to inhibit himself from the service until he clears himself of the charges filed before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC)last week by Ruben Anthony Frogoso.

Frogoso, who works at DOF's central management information office, claimed that Mendoza owned real estate and motor vehicles—things he could not afford by merely being in government service with a monthly salary of P35,000.

Temporary water interruption in Makati City needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and fine-tuning the network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Makati City starting 10:30 p.m., Friday, October 27, 2006, up to 6:00 a.m., Saturday, October 28, due to the replacement of large valves at the Makati Pumping Station. The following areas will be affected:

Barangays Guadalupe Nuevo, Pitogo, Pinagkaisahan, Cembo, South Cembo, Guadalupe Viejo, Bel-Air I to IV, Urdaneta Village, San Lorenzo Village, Legaspi Village, Salcedo Village, Poblacion, Upper Poblacion, Pio Del Pilar, Makati Central Business District and Palm Village.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

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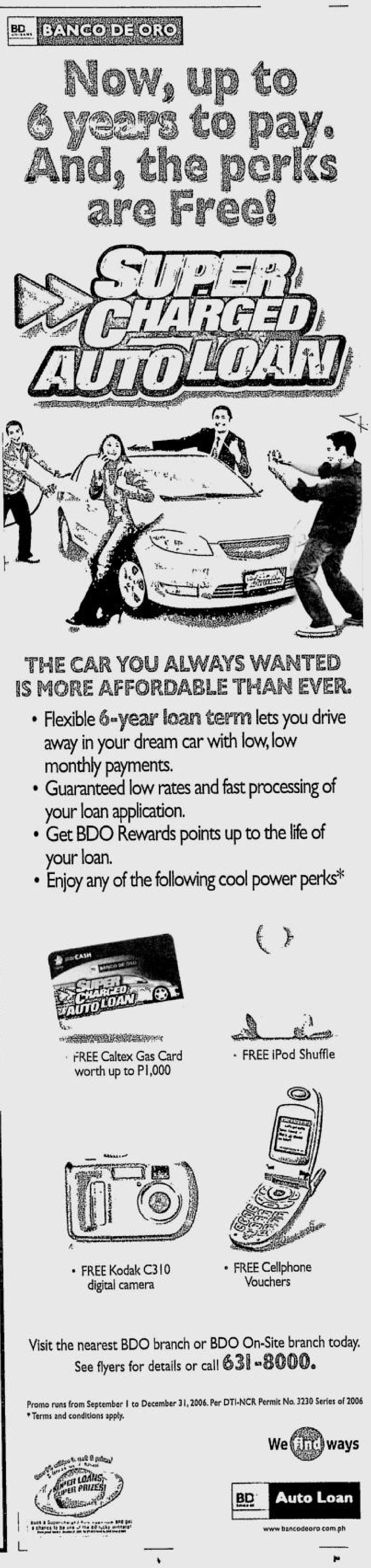
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Joker on 4 women justices: What guts, what balls!

THE WOMEN JUSTICES IN THE Supreme Court delivered the vote, with only one of them voting with the minority, Sen. Joker Arroyo noted yesterday.

"What guts, what balls! A revelation—in a crunch the nation can depend on women," Arroyo said in a statement, referring to Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez and Conchita Carpio-Morales.

"A fitting valedictory of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban—an independent Supreme Court," said Arroyo, who had argued against the people's initiative petition in behalf of the Senate before the high court.

The civil society group OneVoice, which had fought the two main proponents of the initiative every step of the way and opposed their petitions at the Commission on Elections and at the high court, hailed the tribunal's decision as "a triumph of the law."

"I laud the justices for their objectivity, impartiality, wisdom and sense of history," OneVoice convener Rene Azurin said.

Azurin also said Filipinos were fortunate because "the learned justices did not allow the bogus people's initiative to diminish their abilities to check and control the politicos who wield political power in this country."

In a statement, OneVoice said the tribunal had in effect "saved the country from further divisiveness and civil unrest."

"The Supreme Court's decision is a major triumph for democracy and constitutional stability," it said, and called on the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and Sigaw ng Bayan to accept the ruling with grace "so that our nation can move forward with greater speed and unity."

End of the odyssey

Arroyo said the high court's decision signaled "the end of the [Charter change] odyssey."

He added: "The Supreme Court once again demonstrated that in times of grave constitutional issues that confront the nation, it will respond with becoming dispatch and judicial statesmanship, independence, integrity and erudition. Neither a motion for reconsideration nor reviving the constituent assembly will help the cause of Charter change. Mother time is just against them. Let's go back to normal and move on."

The senator also said the decision actually helped President Macapagal-Arroyo: "It relieves her [of] the disadvantages of the proposed Constitution which diminishes her powers and thereby makes her hostage of the interim Parliament. She is better off with the present Constitution."

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said he welcomed the tribunal's decision, but added that the Comelec had never been bothered by the issue.

"In the first place, we have been enjoined from entertaining the petition by the Supreme Court's earlier decision, so there is no discretion, on our part, that they can accuse us of gravely abusing," he said.

Abalos said that with the apparent resolution of the controversy involving the people's initiative, the Comelec could now focus its efforts on the holding of the 2007 midterm elections.

OneVoice also called for public attention to be shifted to next year's polls.

"Let the 2007 elections push through as scheduled, as an indirect referendum on this administration, and as a means to clear the air and restore faith and trust in our democratic institutions," it said, adding:

"We join the nation in celebrating this victory, but shall do so fully prepared to challenge any other move to change the Constitution through highly questionable means and for self-serving reasons."

Wisdom

Even Vice President Noli de Castro lauded the members of the high court: "We hail the individual justices for expressing their wisdom on this constitutional issue, and we respect the Supreme Court as an institution and a pillar of our democracy.

"We call on everyone to uphold and abide by the rule of law. Any change in our Constitution must be done according to law and our democratic system."

Expectedly, former President Joseph Estrada was all praise for the tribunal's decision.

"This is a triumph for democracy, for the Filipino people and for the truth," Estrada said in a statement issued through his spokesperson, former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez.

"The justices who voted against the people's initiative are to be commended for their probity and impartiality in issuing this decision that could help restore the waning faith of our people in the judiciary," he said.

But Estrada urged the people not to let their guard down. "The fight is far from over," he said, adding that the House-backed constituent assembly option now required public attention and vigilance.

Thorn in the flesh

The other senators weighed in with their comments.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the decision was "like a painful thorn in the flesh finally removed."

Said Sen. Pia Cayetano: "It's now time to move on. Let's leave the Charter change issue behind us and attend to more pressing problems, such as the JPEPA (Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement), which poses a real threat to the country, and the need to improve our health care."

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada commended the tribunal but expressed apprehension that the next Chief Justice might not be "as independent" as the Panganiban-led court.

"They may have junked the people's initiative but they might uphold the con-ass (constituent assembly)," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the decision constituted "the best news of the century!"

He added: "Now we are ready to slaughter the weird con-ass move of [Speaker Jose de Venecia].

"The Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Panganiban once again demonstrated the highest sense of judicial responsibility by striking down the Sigaw/Ulap assault upon the rule of law and constitutional order."

Salute

More comments from the senators:

"I salute the Supreme Court! I'm sure soldiers of today share this sentiment. The ruling will dampen the resolution of controversies by unconstitutional and adventurist means."—Sen. Rodolfo Biazon

"Although the people have been given by the Constitution the power to directly propose amendments to the Constitution, the dubious way by which the present people's initiative was orchestrated, largely through the barangay assemblies, is indeed very disturbing. That is why a sound enabling law for the implementation of the exercise of this right, one that would protect the people from the manipulative scheming of the powerful, must be passed by Congress at the soonest possible time."—Sen. Richard Gordon

"The admirable and impressive sense of independence shown by these justices in the face of the brazen pressures applied by powerful self-serving politicians not only restores the people's faith in the rule of law but also reinforces public confidence in our democratic system and its institutions."—Sen. Franklin Drilon

But Sen. Sergio Osmena III said the voting was "too close for comfort."

"In a motion for reconsideration, Gloria only has to pressure one justice to change her vote," he said.

Battle shifts to House

At the House, Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said that once again, albeit by the slimmest of margins, the Supreme Court had "chosen the path of righteousness, justice and rule of law by junking the fake people's initiative petition."

Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said: "The high court's heroic decision to reject the petition is a source of inspiration for a nation being crushed by the weight of traditional politics. The justices saved Philippine democracy, an act of heroism for which they will forever be remembered."

But Deputy Majority Leader Abraham Mitra of Palawan warned: "The Cha-cha (Charter change) train will now switch to the constituent assembly track. But it takes two to Cha-cha. Will the Senate dance? That's the big question. It is now up to their representatives to continue what the people have started."

And from the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, an accolade: "Bayan hails the Supreme Court decision junking the people's initiative. We congratulate the courageous eight who withstood pressure from the Palace to stand for what is just.

"However, the fight continues."

Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio, Cynthia D. Balana, Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

7 dissenting justices vote to remand petition to Comelec

By Jerome Aning

THE SEVEN DISSENTING JUSTICES, led by Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, voted to remand the petition of the pro-Charter change groups to the Commission on Elections for a reverification of over six million signatures they had gathered to push a people's initiative.

Significantly, not one of them voted to grant the plea of the Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) to reverse an earlier Comelec ruling not to proceed with the verification of signatures in the absence of an enabling law, and to subject the proposed Charter amendments to a plebiscite.

The Comelec decision had prompted the two groups to appeal their case before the Supreme Court, citing the poll body for alleged grave abuse of discretion.

Puno was joined in his 73-page dissenting opinion by Associate Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Renato C. Corona, Dante O. Tinga, Minita V. Chico-Nazario, Cancio C. Garcia and Presbitero J. Velasco.

All but Quisumbing and Puno were appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The dissenters said it should be up to the Comelec to decide on all questions about the Sigaw-Ulap petition's compliance with all the requirements provided under the Constitution or Republic Act No. 6735, or the Initiative and Referendum Act, in pushing initiatives for constitutional amendments.

"The issues of whether the petition complied [with the requirements] … involves contentious facts," Puno wrote. "Its resolution will require presentation of evidence and their calibration by the Comelec according to its rules."

As to the allegations that the signatories failed to understand what they signed or were misled into signing the signature sheets, Puno noted that lower courts had ruled that a person is presumed to have knowledge of the contents of a document he had signed.

"But as this court is not a trier of facts, it cannot resolve the issue," he added.

Review of 1997 ruling

Puno sought for the reexamination of the Supreme Court's 1997 ruling in the Santiago v. Comelec case that any initiative for Charter amendments could not proceed because of the insufficiency of RA 6735.

He called the ruling an "intolerable aberration," saying that it did not actually declared RA 6735 unconstitutional and "actually infringed" on Congress' legislative powers.

Moreover, Puno said, the Santiago ruling "did not establish the firm doctrine" that RA 6735 was not sufficient to implement a Chacha initiative. Of the eight justices who originally voted on the law's insufficiency, one later inhibited himself from the case when the ruling was appealed, while another made a turnaround, he noted.

With the final ruling standing at 6-6, the Santiago decision was affirmed because of the lack of votes to reverse it.

"It ought to be beyond debate that the six justices who voted that RA 6735 is an insufficient law failed to establish a doctrine that could serve as precedent," Puno explained.

"The jurisprudence that an equally divided court can never set a precedent is well-settled."

Based on this argument, Puno said he believed the Comelec committed grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction in denying the Sigaw-Ulap petition.

RA 6735 'sufficient'

Puno, who voted against the Santiago ruling in 1997, reiterated his position that RA 6735 was sufficient. He said any details on Cha-cha initiative procedures should have been delegated to the Comelec.

Puno also disagreed with the contention that the proposed constitutional changes were actually revisions and not just mere amendments and that the Constitutional Commission that created the 1987 Charter barred the people from proposing substantial amendments amounting to revision.

"These posit that thesis that only simple but not substantial amendments can be done through people's initiative," he said. "In other words, the people cannot propose substantial amendments amounting to revision."

He added that in the country's history of making Constitutions, amendments traditionally meant "change, including complex changes," while revisions, pertained to "complete change," including the adoption of an entirely new Charter.

For example, he said, the 1935 Constitution was changed to convert the legislature from unicameral to bicameral and shortened the President and Vice President's terms of office from six to four years with one reelection. These, he said, were considered mere amendments.

'Substantial' changes

The 1935 Charter was replaced in 1973 and the new fundamental law was considered a revision, he said.

In turn, the 1973 Charter underwent significant changes four times, including the creation of an Interim Batasang Pambansa to replace the interim National Assembly, giving the President lawmaking powers if the Batasan fails to do so, and establishing a presidential system with parliamentary features.

These were substantial changes but were considered mere amendments, Puno noted.

In 1987, the 1973 Charter was replaced by the current one, but even if many provisions of the 1973 Charter were retained, the new one was deemed a revision of its predecessor, Puno said.

Inconclusive opinions

The Supreme Court should not be guided with certainty by the "inconclusive" opinions of the commissioners on the difference between "simple" and "substantial" amendments, or whether "substantial" amendments amounted to revisions, he said.

"It behooves us to follow the cardinal rule in interpreting Constitutions, i.e., construe them to give effect to the intention of the people who adopted it," Puno said. "The argument that the people through initiative cannot propose substantial amendments turns sovereignty on its head."

The "teaching of the ages" is that constitutional clauses acknowledging the right of the people to exercise initiative and referendum "are liberally and generously construed in favor of the people," he added.

"Let the people speak," Puno said in supporting the validity of the initiative petition.

Supreme Court: People's initiative a gigantic fraud

From page A1

that gathers signatures from the people without first showing to the people the full text of the proposed amendments is most likely a deception, and can operate as a gigantic fraud on the people."

It further said the change sought by Sigaw ng Bayan (Sigaw) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) constituted a revision, not an amendment, of the Charter.

The tribunal primarily assailed the supposed irregularities in the 6,327,952 signatures that Sigaw/Ulap claimed to have gathered.

It said there was no need to "revisit" the Santiago v. Comelec (Commission on Elections) ruling because its decision to dismiss was "based alone" on Sigaw/Ulap's "glaring failure to comply with the basic requirements of the Constitution."

That 1997 Santiago ruling said the people's initiative mode could not be used unless Congress passed an enabling law.

To defend and protect

"This court exists to defend and protect the Constitution. To allow this constitutionally infirm initiative, propelled by deceptively gathered signatures, to alter basic principles in the Constitution is to allow a desecration of [it]. To allow such alteration and desecration is to lose this court's *raison d'être,*" the 52-page decision written by Justice Antonio Carpio said in part.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Associate Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Carpio Morales, Romeo J. Callejo Sr., and Adolfo S. Azcuna also voted to throw out the petition, with Panganiban, Santiago, Gutierrez, Callejo and Azcuna writing separate concurring opinions.

Those who dissented were Associate Justices Reynato S. Puno, Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Renato C. Corona, Dante C. Tinga, Minita V. Chico-Nazario, Cancio C. Garcia and Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

In his separate concurring opinion, Panganiban said the high court was at the "crossroads of history," and that its decision would be talked about in history "either in shame or in pride."

"Let this court be known throughout the nation and the world for its independence, integrity, industry and intelligence," he said.

Big setback

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of Ulap, said the high court's decision was "disheartening."

"This is a big setback to us petitioners and those of us who signed the petition. That's 6.3 million signatures that had been verified," he told reporters at a hotel in Pasay City.

After conferring by phone with Sigaw lawyer Raul Lambino and their respective legal counsel, Evardone said they would ask the tribunal to reconsider its decision, which he described as "a complete disregard of the sovereign will of the people."

He added: "The vote is close, 8-7. If there's a big gap, we would have had second thoughts [about the motion for reconsideration]. But it's a close vote, and we think the Supreme Court can reverse itself in this case.

"We will try to present new evidence or argument to present our position."

Evardone insisted that the people's initiative was still the "most potent and viable option" to amend the Charter and had better chances of bucking legal and constitutional odds compared to the constituent assembly backed by the House of Representatives.

Brave front

The Arroyo administration not only put up a brave front but also distanced itself from the issue.

Minutes before the high court's decision became official, the President thanked the local government officials who had been instrumental in pushing the people's initiative and told them she continued to expect support, which she said she would also extend to them.

"At sa inyong lahat, ating mga punongbayan, ipinagmamalaki ko ang sama-sama ninyong nagagawa bilang mga kaalyado at ating kabalikat," she said at the start of her speech before the League of Municipalities at the Manila Hotel.

"At gaya ng dati, tuloy kong aasahan ang inyong pagtataguyod ng bandila ng pagbabago sa kinabukasan ng Pilipinas, habang patuloy naman na susuportahan ko at ang pamahalaang nasyonal ang inyong liderato sa ilalim ng bandila ng mabuting pamamahala at progresibong pagtayo ng ating bansa."

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the administration could only await the next move of the initiative proponents and of the House leaders.

"It is not really a total setback," Ermita said, quickly adding that Malacañang had to "agree with the majesty of the law as upheld by the Supreme Court."

But he also said that the House still had the option to push for a constituent assembly, and that this was the reason why the push for Charter change was "not really finished."

Ermita reiterated that the President and her administration were firmly for Charter change.

"As to how strongly the President will come out on it depends on [her], but it follows that [her] allies in Congress will have to make the move, not the President herself," he said.

Fatal omission

According to the high court, the Sigaw/Ulap petition is "void and unconstitutional" because "it dismally fails to comply with the requirement of Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution that the initiative must be directly proposed by the people..."

It noted that the proponents did not show the people the full text of the proposed amendments before asking them to sign the "signature sheet," and said this "omission" was "fatal."

"The signature sheets do not explain what specific amendments or revisions the initiative proponents want the interim Parliament to make, and why there is a need for such further amendments of revision. The people are again left in the dark to fathom the nature and effect of the proposed changes," it said.

Among others, the tribunal found that it was not made clear to the signatories that they were agreeing to the lifting of the term limits of lawmakers, who will then become members of the Parliament to be "reelected indefinitely," and that the election for the regular Parliament would be conducted during the 2007 local polls.

It also found that the people were not told either that the amendment would "discriminate against the senators" who may not remain in office after June 30, 2010, if an election would not be held by then.

"Attorney Lambino and his group deceived the 6.3 million signatories, and even the entire nation," the tribunal said, adding that the signatories only had to rely on Lambino's "verbal representations."

"The result is a grand deception of the 6.3 million signatories..." it said.

Plan B

At the House, De Venecia issued a statement saying he was "bowing" to the high court's decision.

But he added: "It is with deep regret that [the high court's] eight members, a majority of one, seem to have focused on the technicalities, instead of on the real and urgent political problems that impoverish the masses of Filipinos, demoralize our idealistic young people, and cause our country to lag behind its vigorous neighbors in the world's fastest-growing region."

De Venecia cited "other constitutional remedies," primarily "Plan B," or the constituent assembly mode of "changing our backward-looking 1987 Charter," which had been placed on the back burner pending the tribunal's ruling on the people's initiative petition.

He said the House would call a caucus of its leaders "to determine our course of action—the activation of what we have announced months ago."

In a separate interview with the Inquirer, Evardone said there was "ample time" for a plebiscite before the elections if the high court would rule quickly on the planned Sigaw/Ulap motion for reconsideration.

"While time is running out, there is still ample time. It might take just a matter of days before the Supreme Court rules on the motion for reconsideration. There'll still be the 60 days needed before a plebiscite," he said.

Sigaw's Lambino said the planned motion for reconsideration would not be filed in the hope of preempting the 2007 polls.

"It has never been a consideration," he said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Christine O. Avendano, and Michael Lim Ubac*

Even docs, nurses are ignorant about AIDS—Unicef

By Christian V. Esguerra

HOW INFORMED ARE YOU ABOUT AIDS?

A study released yesterday by the United Nations Children's Fund suggests that even health professionals are not that much more knowledgeable about the dreaded disease than the youth in the Philippines.

The Unicef expressed concern over the results of the "Study on the Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, and Behavior toward HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Among Filipino Youth" showing that 52 percent of adolescents surveyed said that only people engaged in "promiscuous sexual activities" were vulnerable to AIDS and HIV, the condition that leads to AIDS.

According to Unicef representative Dr. Nicholas Alipui, the study showed an alarmingly high level of ignorance when it comes to the most effective ways to prevent HIV infection.

Two out of 10 doctors, including 14 percent of the nurses surveyed, said there was cure for AIDS, according to the study conducted by the Health Action Information Network (HAIN).

Another 23 percent of the entire number of health workers surveyed said that HIV can be transmitted through kissing or mosquito bites.

"This clearly shows that even medical professionals are trapped in the illusion that a cure for AIDS has been discovered," the Unicef said in a statement.

The study, conducted between July and August 2005, covered 4,111 young Filipinos aged between 12 and 20, and 215 health workers in Metro Manila and 10 provinces pre-selected by the Unicef.

Early sex

The Unicef expressed concern that Filipino youths were found to be engaging in sex at an early age without any protection from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

"The need to arm young people with facts, skills and opportunities to protect themselves from a potential AIDS epidemic is greater than ever," said Alipui.

According to the survey, 71 percent of the young people surveyed said people with HIV or AIDS should be isolated, a reflection of the threat of social stigma attaching to the disease.

As of July this year, the Unicef said 2,600 HIV-seropositive cases had been reported.

Of that number, 1,868 were asymptomatic, that is, they have yet to manifest symptoms, while 732 were full-blown AIDS cases. Sixty three of those afflicted with AIDS were aged between 25 and 39.

Among the people with AIDS, 288 had already shown AIDS-related complications, according to Unicef.

The Unicef said by far the best way to address the problem of AIDS is the promotion of the use of condoms which are seen to reduce the risk of a person acquiring HIV/AIDS.

One of the promotional materials shown at yesterday's press briefing was an advertisement for "Frenzy" condoms in a young couple, who didn't appear to be married, was shown shopping for a flavor that they liked. In the end, the guy chose the banana-flavored condom, and smilingly walked out of the store.

Another commercial showed steamy sex scenes involving several young couples, while figures and statistics on AIDS incidence and mortality were occasionally flashed on screen.

DPWH wants to regulate billboard ads

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER REMOVING ILLEGAL and hazardous billboards along major thoroughfares, the Department of Public Works and Highways now wants to ensure that no such structures would rise again along national roads in the future without its go-signal.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has ordered a study into the possibility of requiring billboard owners to get a clearance from district engineers of the DPWH before any building or sign permit would be issued by local governments.

At present, local government units issue the permits for the erection of billboards and other structures in their areas, including along national roads.

Director Emmanuel Cuntapay of the National Building Code Development Office, who was tasked to conduct the study, said the DPWH has no involvement in the process.

Cuntapay said the district engineers would issue the clearances only after determining that the building plans for structures and signs to be built along national roadways do not violate the National Building Code, the road right-of-way, the zoning regulations and other such rules.

Requirements

"We want to see to it that structures along national highways would follow our requirements," Cuntapay said in a phone interview, citing as example the setback requirement, which calls for structures to be built at a certain distance from the road.

He also said the involvement of district engineers would not be limited to checking plans for the construction of billboards, but also the plans for other structures to be built along national roads.

He noted that many structures have taken up space on the road right-of-way, including vulcanizing shops.

According to Cuntapay, he might propose the requirement of a clearance from DPWH district engineers prior to the local government's issuance of a building or a sign permit in the National Building Code's implementing rules and regulations.

He would also try to include the requirement in Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago's proposed bill to regulate the erection of billboards, he added.

Dismantled

Meanwhile, the DPWH disclosed yesterday that as of Oct. 23 a total of 3,105 billboards have been dismantled in four regions which had submitted reports to the main office. Another 4,653 outdoor advertisements are being assessed and awaiting their fate.

Majority of the dismantled billboards, or 1,663, were in the National Capital Region, while 822 were in Central Luzon. The Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon had 460 of the dismantled outdoor advertisements, while Davao had 160.

The DPWH and the Metro Manila Development Authority have been dismantling billboards pursuant to the President's administrative order that calls for the removal of billboards located on the road right-of-way, violate the National Building Code, built without the proper permits and pose a risk to public safety.

The order was issued in the aftermath of strong Typhoon "Milenyo" which toppled several billboards, killing one person and injuring several others.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 26, 2006
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 3:14-21
Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled; but I have a baptism to undergo and what anguish I feel until it is over!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Commentary

Paul's prayer is for the power of the Spirit of God to make strong our inner souls that our outward lives may reflect the depth of love that has been given to us. And the prayer is of praise for Jesus the Christ of God and that we may be his glory in every generation. Jesus has come to bring fire (the Spirit) upon the earth, blazing, transforming in a baptism of fire. God desires us in Jesus to be holy and to be truthful, even if it divides family, marriages, societies. Jesus knows distress until we are made holy as God is holy. Are we made of fire and truth, reflecting the love given to us? Or are we more concerned with keeping everything the way it is in our families and communities, adding to Jesus' distress?

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COMDDAP EXPO MANILA 2006

Biggest computer trade show and technology event opens today

Marking its 20th anniversary this year, the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP) has gathered more than 40 technology companies, including homegrown software developers, for COMDDAP Expo Manila 2006, which opens today at the COMDDAP Tent in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Considered the country's biggest computer trade show and technology event, the annual COMDDAP Expo has evolved from a mere showcase of the latest computers and related products, consumer electronics and digital gadgets into a one-stop shop for corporate and individual consumers.

The COMDDAP expo is the country's longest-running computer exhibit and market-driven show where buyers and sellers come up with tailor-fit ICT solutions through face-to-face interaction.

Supporting the COMDDAP Expo are Chase Technologies Corp., Imatech Corp. and PLDTmyDSL with media partners Digital Tour (Studio 23), ComputerWorld, PC Buyer's Guide, PC World and Hardware Zone.

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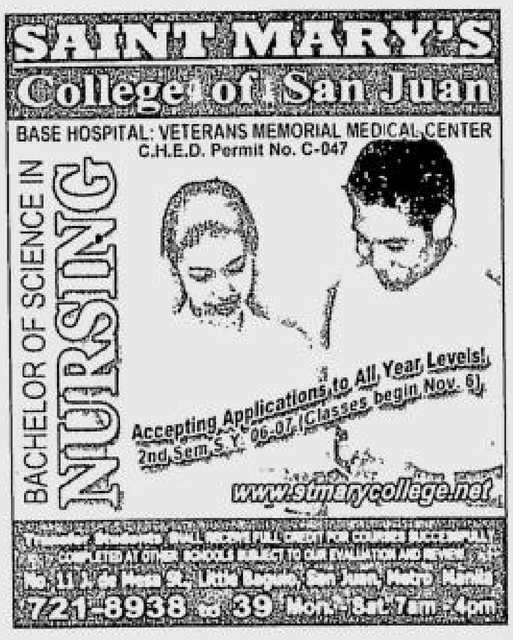
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Deployment of Pinoys to Kazakhstan suspended

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment has temporarily suspended the deployment and departure of overseas Filipino workers bound for Tengiz, Kazakhstan and would be sending a government composite team to assess the situation and ensure the well-being of the OFWs in the area.

Labor Undersecretary for Employment Danilo Cruz cited the "disturbing situation in Tengiz, Kazakhstan that might adversely affect the security and welfare of our Filipino workers."

Cruz is the acting DOLE chief as Labor Secretary Arturo Brion is currently in Japan for an official mission.

"In view of the disturbing situation in Tengiz, Kazakhstan that might adversely affect the security and welfare of our Filipino workers, the processing and deployment of Filipino workers to any worksite in Tengiz is hereby suspended temporarily, until further order," he said.

Tengiz had been the site of recent massive riots that pitted locals against Turkish workers. About 300 people have been injured, two of them seriously.

The labor official said Filipino workers were still not reporting to work since the violent clash between Kazakhs and Turkish workers broke out last Friday due to alleged differences in pay.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARY OFFICE
Tel. No (632) 455-2758 Mobile Phone. (+63) 928-4102732 Email vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Provision of Janitorial Services at NFA Central Office for 2007

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of P8,832,156.56 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the provision of janitorial services from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 at NFA Central Office*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the provision of janitorial services from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 at NFA Central Office*. Period covered by this contract is from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P7,500.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 24, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 24, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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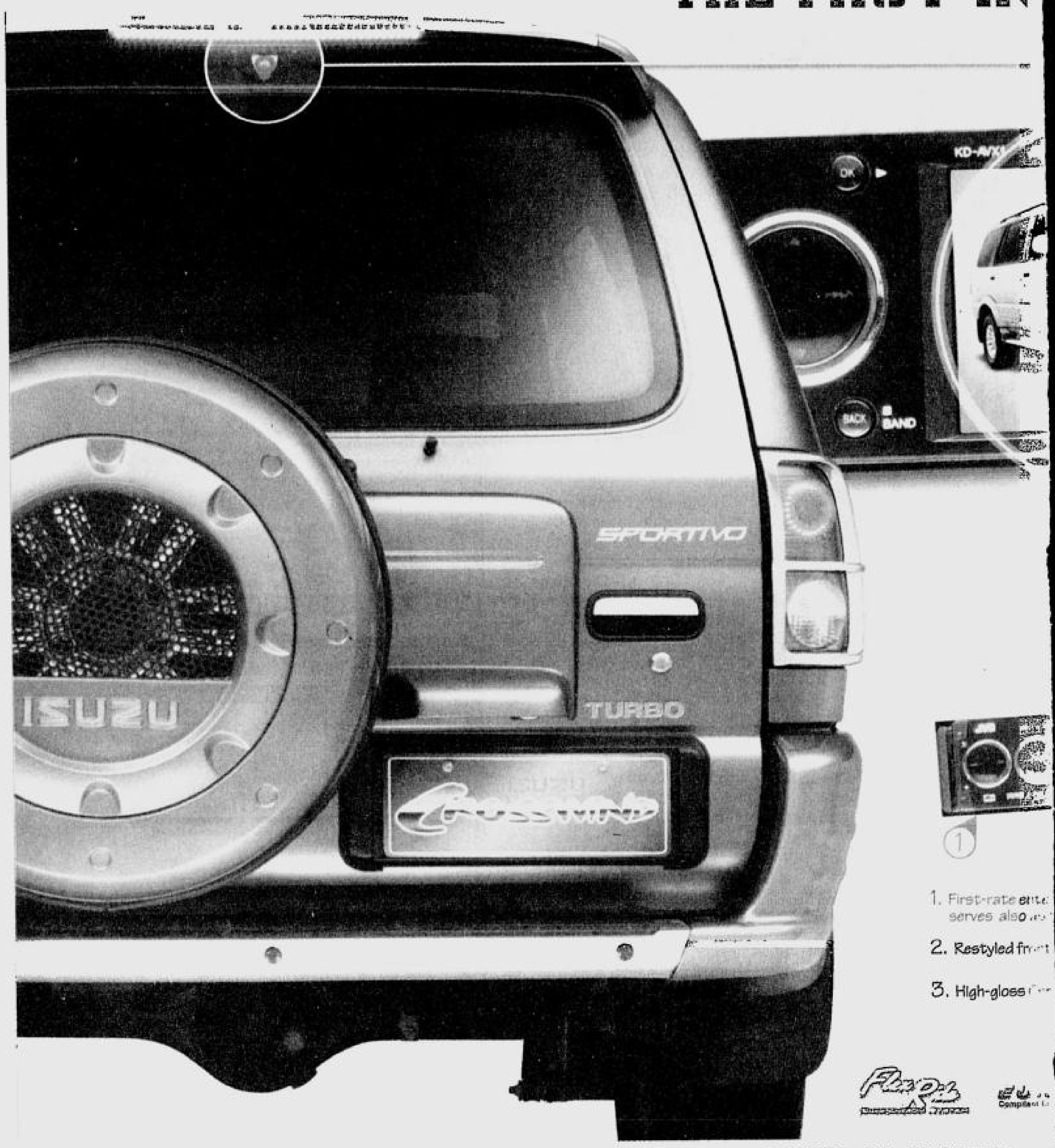
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Lauded by solons, DSWD gets intact budget

By Cynthia D. Balana

LEGISLATORS FROM BOTH THE minority and majority blocs of the House of Representatives, commended the Department of Social Welfare and Development for its consistent good performance when they recently approved the DSWD's 2007 budget of P3.9 billion.

During the approval of the budget, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said that Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero cited the DSWD Region V for its good job in the relief operations for victims of typhoon Milenyo and the series of disasters in the Bicol region.

She said this was affirmed by Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas who expressed satisfaction over the performance of DSWD in Region XI as well as Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla who cited DSWD Region IV-A.

In thanking the legislators for their support, Cabral vowed to keep her department apolitical and service-oriented.

"This gesture of approving our budget without cuts and without further deliberation once more demonstrates our legislators' sensitivity and responsiveness to the needs of our poor countrymen," Cabral said.

She said the legislators' continued support were also shown in the increasing amount of Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF) being channeled to DSWD for social protection and poverty alleviation projects.

Cabral assured the congressmen that the DSWD would continue to meet their expectations of efficiently delivering services to the poor.

The DSWD 2007 budget was sponsored by Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy III, sub-chair of the Committee on Appropriations.

Cabral said the 2007 DSWD budget represented a 56 percent increase over its 2006 budget of P2.5 billion. It was, however, only equivalent to .36 percent of the proposed national government budget of P1.1 trillion, and only 2.63 percent of the combined budget of the four major departments of the social sector which include the Department of Health, Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Employment.

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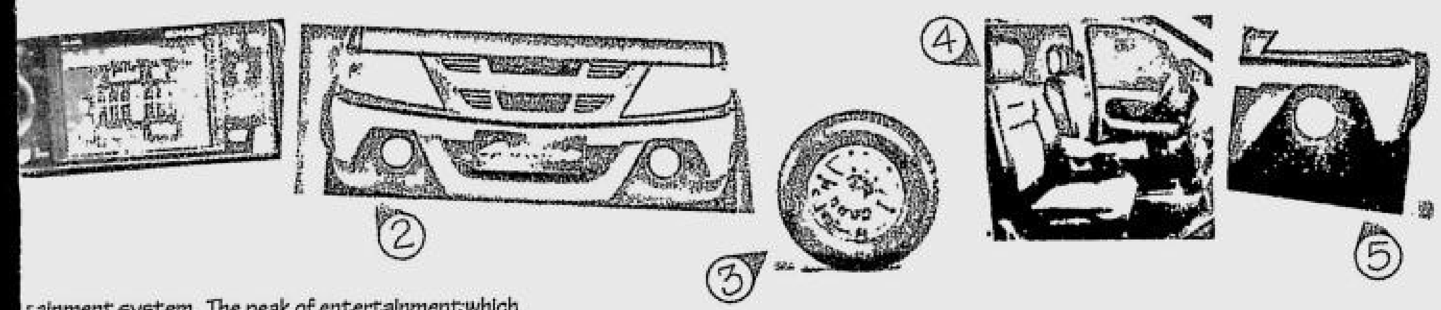

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OPINION

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Closed or open?

EDITORIAL

THE FLIP-FLOP APPEARS TO BE AS MUCH PART OF the standard operating procedures of the Arroyo administration as the whitewash when it comes to the investigation of official wrongdoing. The first has been used more than once in the (mis)handling of the leakage-tainted nursing board exams last June, for instance, and the second has been employed in almost every case involving officials close to the powers-that-be, from the Hello Garci scandal to the botched election automation contract to the P728-million fertilizer scam. Both seem to be at play in the case of the seven infants who died soon after their birth at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

There were 28 babies who were delivered at the RMC last Oct. 4. At least 12 of them developed neonatal sepsis, a bacterial infection in the blood. Six died two days later on Oct. 6, while a seventh died the next day.

The mothers blamed hospital officials for the deaths of their new-born, saying the delivery room was not only crowded but dirty. Hospital employees didn't bother to clean the bed or the room, but simply asked the next pregnant mother to lie down after delivering a baby.

When the mothers threatened to hale them to court for the deaths of the infants, hospital officials issued a public apology but insisted they had done everything to protect the health of the babies and the mothers. But at the same time, they admitted that on the day the children were born, conditions in the hospital were "abnormal." Winston Go, the hospital director, said typhoon "Milenyo" had knocked down power lines and cut the water connection. He said it was possible that the delivery room had not been cleaned after each delivery.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said there was "some degree of negligence" on the part of the hospital staff in caring for their patients. But a five-member committee he had formed to look into the case absolved the RMC management and staff of any responsibility for the infants' deaths.

Duque himself explained the fact-finding committee's conclusion, saying the babies got ill within 90 hours after delivery. "This suggests that mother-to-child transmission occurred even before the delivery," he said. The probers, he said, did not find a link between contaminated equipment and the outbreak of neonatal sepsis at the hospital.

Dr. Eric Tayag, chief of the National Epidemiology Center which also looked into the case, supported the findings of the committee. He explained that when a baby acquires the infection from the mother, the symptoms occur within six days after delivery. If the babies got infected at the hospital, they would have exhibited symptoms of the infection seven days after they were born or even later.

Tayag further explained that the physical conditions of many of the mothers made delivering babies risky. They either had fever or urinary tract infections. Some did not even see a doctor until they were brought to the hospital to deliver their babies.

What these doctors are saying is that the hospital and its staff could not be blamed for the babies' deaths—it was all their mothers' fault. And who is there to dispute their expert opinion?

Obviously, nobody is in a position to do so, except that some of the mothers have an interesting question to ask: How did the experts come to know all these when they didn't even talk to them?

Duque himself seems to think the case should not be closed yet. He said RMC officials were "not yet off the hook." He noted that there has been an "alarming" increase in the incidence of neonatal sepsis and the mortality rate at this particular hospital. The number of cases of neonatal sepsis between January and October shot up to 127 this year from 83 over the same period last year. The number of fatalities from the disease also increased to 69 from last year's 45. "The increase is pronounced, and that points to some degree of negligence," Duque said. "They should have improved maternal care at the hospital."

They should have, but they didn't, and 69 infants are dead so far this year. But seven deaths in a couple of days look even more "alarming" than seven deaths a month, the average mortality rate. So why is nobody being held liable at least for the more recent deaths?

Can the police do what the medical experts couldn't do, which is build a case against the responsible hospital officials? The grieving mothers should know the answer soon.

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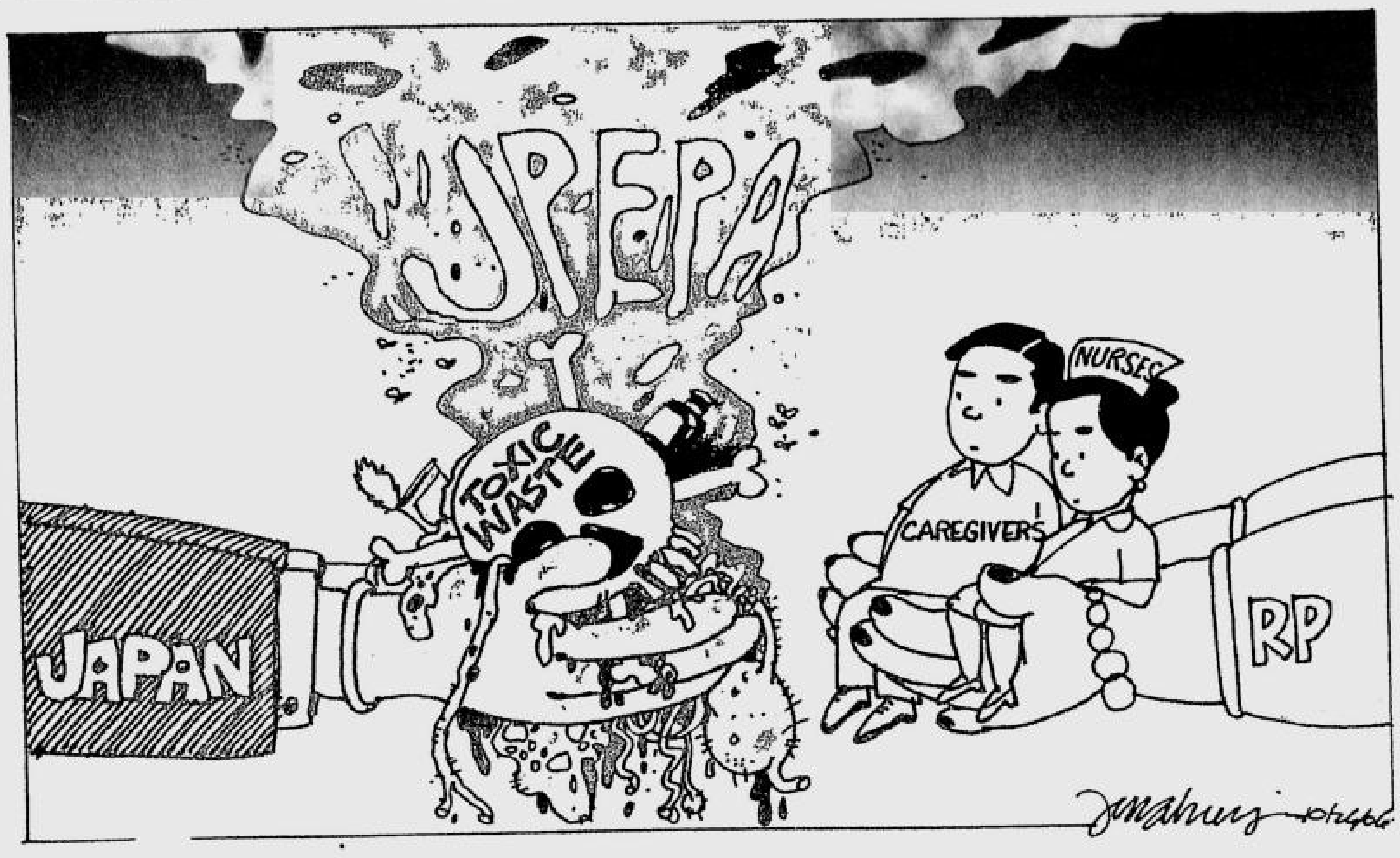

Padlocked mindsets

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WHAT HAVE NEW YORK AND BEIJING GOT to do with severely devastated Philippine watersheds? Both show there's no prison more constricting than padlocked official mindsets.

Demand for water here is spiraling from a population likely to top 94 million in four years. Watersheds are crucial in meeting that need. The Philippines has over 400 of them, from Santo Tomas, Angat to Pasonanca and Koronadal.

But today "(their) forest cover varies from almost none to 50 percent," notes the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "Many are characterized by … soil erosion, erratic streamflow, declining groundwater."

This is no way to run a railroad. Both residents of gated enclaves or city slums, need "20 to 40 liters per head per day," the Pacific Institute for Development Studies estimates. And there is no substitute for water.

Yet, we use the stuff like there was no tomorrow. Which city or province has cobbled water-conserving policies—and enforced them? In contrast, rain-harvesting devices blanket 94 percent of Singapore, although the city-state has the region's largest desalination plant and pipelines to Johore. And we play fast and loose with water sources, whether aquifers, wells or watersheds.

Add feckless ignorance to our blind profligacy. Many claim this is a water-rich country. Nonsense. Filipinos per head have only 1,907 cubic meters available annually. In contrast, Indonesia is awash with 13,380 cubic meters. "The Philippines ranks second from the lowest among Southeast Asian countries, lower than Asian and world averages," notes the World Bank.

In New York, as the Catskill region industrialized, city officials were told: build an $8-billion water purification plant, if the 17 million metropolis residents were to get potable water. Another $300 million would be needed yearly, for operations. The total tab, over a decade, would be $11 billion.

New York instead chose to let nature purify the water. A $2-billion massive program restored—and today conserves—watersheds in their natural condition. This guaranteed water supply while saving taxpayers $9 billion.

The "Big Apple" approach reflected official insight into how valuable nature's services can be. "The destruction of natural systems deprives society of these services and their value," Lester Brown notes in "The Earth Policy Reader."

The 1998 flooding of the Yangtze River basin inflicted $30 billion in damages and affected 120 million people. It underscored the value of flood control services provided by forests, Brown adds. First dubbed as an "act of nature," the catastrophe, Beijing finally admitted, resulted from stripping the Yangtze River basin some 85 percent of its original forest cover. "Trees standing are worth three times as much as trees cut," the government said in instituting a logging ban and reforestation program.

"New York City and China made major policy changes once they recognized the value of nature's services," Brown adds. The market effectively allocates scarce resources and balances supply and demand. "It sets prices with an efficiency that no central planning body can match."

But the market has no alarm system that is triggered when the sustainable yield thresholds of natural resources systems, like watersheds, are breached. The danger is magnified because official mindsets remain strapped to illusions of long-vanished abundance.

The impact of denuded watersheds, lack of early warning systems and official blindness are exceptionally severe on aquifers. In Cebu, crippled watersheds partially recharge aquifers "mined" at twice sustainable rates. A frenzy of private well-drilling continues as water tables fall and salt contaminates underground cisterns.

"At some point, in the not-too-distant future, the world will face simultaneous 'water shocks' as aquifer depletion forces abrupt and, in many cases, substantial reductions in water use," the Worldwatch Institute notes. This context underscores the far-reaching significance of the little-noticed approval of House Bill 4862. It would consolidate management of Cebu's fragmented watersheds and protected areas.

Rep. Eduardo Gullas authored the proposed "Central Cebu Protected Landscape Act." And the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Pia Cayetano, favorably endorsed the measure. Assuming the national budget gets through the Senate wringer soon, it could be debated shortly.

One can dawdle on the Gullas bill's institutional furniture. But more crucial are provisions that may start breaking barnacled official mindsets.

It proposes, for example, the 1992 "Dublin Principles" as a policy capstone. "Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life and develop the natural environment," that document says. "Water has an economic value in all its uses and it should be recognized as an economic good." The Dublin Principles on people participation in water management would frustrate carpetbaggers.

The "Act shall be construed liberally and in favor of protection and rehabilitation of critical watersheds, and conservation and restoration of biological diversity," Gullas writes.

This is a long way from sophisticated measures that stitch ecological concerns into market mechanisms. Australia bids out permits to fish within sustainable limits. Some Latin American nations auction rights to pump water within what aquifers can recharge. But the Gullas bill is a welcome first step.

* * *

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Contrast, irony, paradox

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WALKING SIDE BY SIDE DOWN THE RED-carpeted aisle leading to Malacañang, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Surayud Chulanont looked like a study in contrast. Surayud, of course, is the prime minister of Thailand. At first blush, or on the face of it, the contrast was this:

Surayud has just been benefited by a coup, having been installed as prime minister by the generals who seized power from Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. GMA has just survived a coup that never took place, or a "withdrawal of support" by several generals from her government. Surayud was never elected as head of his government, GMA was elected head of her government. Surayud presides over a dictatorship, one that has been mounted against the sovereign will of the Thais. GMA presides over a democracy, one that enjoys the mandate of the Filipino voters. By rights, Surayud should be reviled by his people, and by rights GMA should be beloved by hers. By rights, Surayud should be held accountable by the civilized world and regarded as a pariah in it. By rights, GMA should be embraced by the civilized world and given pride of place in its councils.

In fact, the opposite is true. It is a study in contrast, but one with the most supremely ironic twists.

Or pretty much most of it. The only thing in fact that's not a contrast is that both of them are the product of a coup. And here the ironies get thicker and richer. GMA was **not** the product of a coup in 2001, however Erap's followers still argue the point, saying the impeachment case against Erap, the duly—indeed formidably—elected president was never concluded. Well, the impeachment trial might not have concluded in the court of law but it had concluded in the court of public opinion, which is supreme a court as you can get, more supreme than the one Hilario Davide headed. GMA came to power in 2001 legally, constitutionally, morally. Alas, also tragically, at least for the nation.

GMA came to power as a result of a coup only in May 2004. The importance of that fact can never be sufficiently belabored. There is no other way to describe the theft of the vote in those elections, particularly given garish face or voice by the "Hello Garci" tape. It was just as violent and forcible a seizure of power as that done with arms, and has been defended as violently and forcibly ever since. Indeed, bloodily: Edcel Lagman was right to use the metaphor of a corpse for the impeachment bid, "It was dead on arrival," "It was a cadaver," etc. Guess who made it so. The metaphor would not long remain a metaphor after the impeachment bid failed. Real corpses began piling up all over the country.

Both Surayud and GMA are the products of a coup. But there the similarities end. Surayud may have been the product of a coup, but he is widely accepted—and respected—by his people. The Thais did not moan and groan when the generals ousted Thaksin, they breathed a sigh of relief, thanks in no small way to the endorsement of the coup by King Bhumibol himself. Surayud is so secure in his position he feels free to travel without fear of embarrassing himself, or being met by protests, for being an illegitimate ruler.

GMA is the ostensible winner of the elections, but nobody believes it, including the congressmen who defend her at all costs. Or at least, as in the case of Jose de Vencia, at costs other than his own ambition to become prime minister of this country. The Filipinos did not moan and groan when her government kept warning that "destabilizers" were out to destabilize her, they danced for joy. It was not a warning, it was a glad tiding; it was not a threat, it was a promise of deliverance. The Filipinos did moan and groan when the "withdrawal of support" by Danny Lim et al. met only with a withdrawal of support from Hermogenes Esperon and the other generals who helped GMA cheat the hell out of the voters of Muslim Mindanao, as proclaimed by the "Hello Garci" tape. Some wept openly, and cried, "What a hapless country we are!"

Thailand under Surayud remains a working democracy, the Philippines under GMA has become a working dictatorship.

Although the new Thai government was mounted by the generals, the generals themselves did not take power, they gave up power, with the King's blessings, to a former military commander-turned near-Buddhist monk-turned environmentalist after retirement. Not quite incidentally, Surayud's father, Phayom, was the Thai version of Gen. Raymundo Jarque, and more: A member of the Thai Royal Military, he left his post to become a central committee member of the Communist Party of Thailand. Obviously, the Thai military has not taken that against Surayud. He is still alive.

Although the new Philippine government was mounted by a civilian coup plotter, with the aid of a "certain Comelec official," she soon turned over power to the military, notably the generals who helped her to "Garci" (verb, meaning, _____, well, feel free to supply it) the voters. Increasingly so, after they helped her survive Lim's withdrawal of support last February. The logic of survival under a shroud of illegitimacy has compelled GMA to employ measures that fall little short of martial law. Malacañang's attempt to unseat the duly elected mayor of Makati on charges it is guiltier of—namely hiring ghosts—is ironclad proof of it. If the Palace failed, it wasn't for lack of trying. It was for much of the victim's defying.

In Thailand, long-standing institutions bend the country to their will; in the Philippines an overstaying usurper bends the country to her will. In Thailand, the dog wags the tail; in the Philippines the tail wags the dog.

It's a contrast wrapped in an irony locked in a paradox.

What can I say? Let's still import some Thai generals.

Oh, for more brave hearts in SC

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SUPREME COURT'S 8-7 DECISION THROWING out the people's initiative petition contains, as has been characteristic of its rulings of late, something for both sides. For the anti-initiative bloc, the ruling is categorical in its denial of the petition. The pro-initiative group, led by lawyer Raul Lambino and Gov. Erico Aumentado of Bohol, chair of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), had asked the Court to order the Comelec to call for a plebiscite so that the people could decide on Charter change. The Court chose to stick to what it deemed to be the constitutional limitations of the petition, such as the distinction between revision and amendment.

It makes one wonder how this country would be if the Court had even just a handful of activist jurists willing to break out of the constitutional straightjacket and more brave hearts with a little less concern for "institutional damage" and posterity, than for the nation's future which, at the moment of decision, was truly in their hands.

* * *

For the pro-initiative bloc, partial victory came in RA 6735. This Initiative Act will never be questioned again as "insufficient" or "incomplete." This is because at least 10 justices, in separate concurring and dissenting opinions, recognized RA 6735 directly or indirectly. However, the victory of 6735, a legacy of the late Sen. Raul Roco, provides little comfort for Lambino's and Aumentado's groups. For they worked very hard in the past two years to raise the people's initiative from a non-idea to something that excited the nation as only a few ideas have in recent memory.

* * *

For Speaker Jose de Venecia, it was a painful personal blow. In championing Charter change against all odds, he was vilified by some of his colleagues in Congress. They accused him of merely lusting for the prime minister's post, while conveniently failing to acknowledge that he had been championing the parliamentary system for the past 16 years. But a fruit is hit hardest when it's ripe, and even his severest critics know by now that no one is more qualified than JDV to be prime minister, which is why they are trying to frustrate him at every turn.

* * *

Court insiders told this columnist that the issue of holding a plebiscite, as the petitioners sought, was not the crux of the matter, even to the so-called "friendly" justices. The real battle was between denying the petition or remanding it to the Comelec. On the one hand, the eight justices in the majority, led by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Justice Antonio Carpio, ruled that the question at hand—the shift to parliamentary/unicameral—was a revision and not a mere amendment. They also could not declare the Comelec's rejection of the initiative petition as "grave abuse of discretion" inasmuch as the poll body merely upheld the Court's own ruling in 1997. On the other hand, the seven in the minority, led by Senior Justice Reynato Puno, voted not to order the Comelec to conduct a plebiscite but merely to remand the petition to the poll body, in order to determine whether the constitutional requirement of "three percent per district" was met. They argued that the Comelec should do this job, since the Court is not a trier of facts. But the task would have taken forever to finish, as opposing lawyers would certainly insist on verifying each and every signature. Besides, some justices felt this issue would still end up in the Court. The remand argument seems to me like a cop-out for the minority.

What about the merits of the parliamentary system? A source said that only Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez offered an opinion: it won't work.

What about the persuasive argument that the country would continue to stagnate politically and, ultimately, economically if the present discredited presidential system were retained? At first, this question was considered, but ultimately it was set aside as the justices focused on the constitutional issues.

* * *

When the two opposing positions—to deny the petition or to remand it to the Comelec—crystallized, the members felt that the earlier the decision was made, the better. Thus, while Santiago vs Comelec took four months to decide, this one took only a month, starting from the marathon hearing of Sept. 26. The justices resolved that every time they met they would discuss the petition. The sessions were stormy—"*dikdikan talaga kami,*" said one jurist. Eleven justices wrote dissenting or concurring opinions, leaving only four without additional comments. This, said a source, indicates the depth and breadth of the discussions.

* * *

Personally I feel deeply saddened by the Court's decision, even though my objective mind can comprehend the constitutional constraints that the justices straight-jacketed themselves in. The words of Justice Learned Hand which De Venecia quoted at the justices' forum ring true: "Liberty, liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it."

I also worry about the future of people's initiative, that beautiful symbol of people empowerment enshrined by the 1987 Constitution as an innovative option to amend the fundamental law. What will stop its future enemies from verifying to death signatures certified by local election registrars? Why couldn't the magistrates trust the certifications issued by these election officials?

I also mourn the lost opportunity to chart a better future for this country, under a setup that is different from our present poisoned presidential system which is characterized by gridlock between the two chambers of Congress and between the executive and the legislative branches. But still we have to bow to the wisdom of the Supreme Court.

The scent of coconuts

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ONE SHOULD INDULGE IN LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES even while the world goes berserk and the ugly side of politics is constantly spoiling the landscape of our lives. Food is comfort and we look to so-called comfort food—the food that brings back pleasant memories and feelings—when things go awry.

It was good to savor the flavors and scents of the food of Bicolandia last Monday at the Edsa Shangri-la where the two-week (Oct. 23 to Nov. 3) Gayon Food Feast is now going on. This is being copromoted by the Department of Tourism's Bicol Regional Division under Maria O. Ravanilla.

Gayon is short for *magayon* (Bicol for beautiful) and where the name of the awesome Mayon Volcano of Albay is supposed to have come from. Extend the suffix and you have *magayunon* or very beautiful; *magayunonon* means very, very beautiful. You could extend the suffix some more to push the meaning to the extreme.

My verdict? The food was not just *masiram* (delicious), it was *masiramon* (really delicious). I say this not because my cousin Didette N. Peralta (who co-owns and runs Legazpi City's Small Talk Café) was one of the guest cooks but because the flavors did *Daragang Magayon* (the maiden in Bicol legend) proud. And I judged the spread as it was—somewhat fusion cuisine—not as the home cooked, slow-food fare that purists might pine for. There was pasta *pinangat*, for example, and Bicol express served on tomato halves. Quite "neo-," those. But the real *pinangat* was there in its "coconut-y" glory.

I am only half-Bicolana (and half-Ilongga), so my judgment would not be that of a true-blue Bicolana. Special guest Honesto General, author of "Coconut Cookery" and an excellent cook, would make a better judgment. I only enjoyed what I ate.

Albay congressman Edcel Lagman who delivered the post-prandial speech had fire in his mouth while speaking about the triumvirate of Bicol cuisine—*sili* (hot pepper), pili and coconut. These, I suspect, are what bring out the *oragon* (that X factor) in Bicolanos. But more than the other two, I think it is the coconut that really defines Bicol cuisine. Pili nut sweets (for dessert) could be absent, and the *sili's* fire could be toned down, but the coconut has to be there in the right amount.

Speaking of coconuts, a new book on the wonder tree of all time was recently launched. "Coconut: The Philippines' Money Tree," by Dr. Renato M. Labadan, tells all there is to know about the coconut. Root, fruit, flower, palm, juice, oil, trunk, husk, shell—and how Filipinos could squeeze and use all of its parts in order to earn from this tree of trees.

Last year, I wrote about Dr. Conrado Dayrit, his coco-discoveries and his book "The Truth About Coconut Oil: The Drugstore in a Bottle." The book focused on virgin coconut oil (VCO) which is claiming its rightful place as food ingredient and medicine after the decades of badmouthing and blacklisting done by the West in order to promote its own oils.

Labadan's coffeetable-type book weighs more than two kilos (the case included), or the weight of about two coconuts. It didn't have to be this heavy and this big, if you ask me. It contains a lot of photographs and information on how the coconut could work wonders for this country and its people. It's easy to read but, as I said, too heavy to hold on one's lap.

Here's a peek. Labadan traces the original home of the coconut and then concludes that the weight of evidence points to Southeast Asia. He then goes on to the beginning of the development of a viable industry during the Spanish colonial times.

And what is the original coconut? Alas, no one coconut can claim "genetical purity" because of cross-pollination and hybridization. Labadan does classify the many different types now in existence, the *makapuno* included.

While many are going loco over the coco virgin oil or VCO as food and medicine, little is known about the coconut nectar. Labadan introduces the recently discovered uses of this sap. No, it is not the coconut water from the fruit. Coconut nectar is the concentrated sap from the inflorescence or the coconut "flower." I know the *tuba* comes from this inflorescence, but the nectar that Labadan talks about is a discovery of Dr. Gerino Macias, who invented an apparatus similar to that of a honeybee that processes honey. The resulting viscous coconut nectar is touted to be some kind of wonder food and cure-all too, like the VCO.

The fruit is, of course, the crowning glory of this money tree. The meat or the "white solid endosperm" of the fruit is the part that is most used as food. (The *ubod*, the nectar and the *tuba* come from other parts.) By itself, this edible part of the fruit can build an industry, as in the case of VCO, cooking oil, copra, nata de coco, and now, coco-diesel for vehicles.

Now, fiber nets from the husk are the rage especially for environmental purposes, that is, to prevent erosion. Recently, Justino Arboleda won the BBC's World Challenge prize and the Global 100 Eco-Tech Award for his coconet.

Labadan does not forget to take up the controversial coco-levy funds collected in billions of pesos from poor coconut farmers during the Marcos regime—funds that, until now, has not been fully accounted for.

There's more to this book than just the tree, its fruit and its many parts. A whole chapter is devoted to the coconut farmer; another chapter on the coconut industry and the major players. And, more importantly, how the coconut industry could be improved.

Labadan (rmlabadan@yahoo.com) is an agriculturist. He finished at the University of the Philippines and Cornell University in the United States. This 1970 TOYM awardee also has a master's degree in business administration from the Ateneo University.

* * *

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Lame duck

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

INTERVIEWED IN 1939, CHIEF JUSTICE RAMON Avanceña was asked how the Supreme Court that year broke a record in terms of decisions handed down. "It's like this, *chico*," he told the Philippines Free Press. "Let us suppose that you know nothing about mathematics and that I am an authority on the subject. A problem is submitted to us for solution. You would probably take days. I would take only about three minutes." Concluded the writer of the story, "Mr. Chief Justice's smile was like a Supreme Court decision; it allowed no appeal."

The Court's decision on the people's initiative case—reportedly against the Palace's interests as of this writing—will surely be appealed either way. Media reports have already paved the way for understanding why the decision seems so rapidly arrived at. The justices, said one report, have been studying the case for some time.

It must have been very interesting to have been at the Manila Hotel around lunchtime yesterday, when the news of an unfavorable (to Malacañang) decision was flying thick and fast, just as the President was due to arrive to address the convention of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines. Whatever the President said in public was surely less remarkable than the discussions that took place behind the scenes. Did the President manage to rally the—by then, surely droopy—faithful? Did she repeat what she reportedly told her lieutenants when the high court was hearing the oral arguments on the people's initiative? Back then, she reportedly fiercely said, "We can't have an election!" Her opportunities for canceling next year's elections are narrowing.

Presuming, as of this writing, that the people's initiative has rejected by the Court, the administration faces the challenge of pursuing constitutional amendments in the congressional arena. Perhaps an attempt to court senatorial support will be made, or maybe not. Chances are, the House of Representatives will try to force matters by unilaterally proposing a plebiscite, a move that will then lead to another round of argumentation before the high court. And if pressure had been intense on the justices lately, it would pale in comparison to the pressures that will be applied in a last-ditch, House-led effort.

If the House effort fails, either due to intramurals between the Lakas-CMD and the President's pet party, Kampi, or because the Court decides that constitutional change demands bicameral participation in a constituent assembly, then President Macapagal-Arroyo will become a lame duck.

I've argued in the past that politically the electorate is only for the underdog if the underdog appears to have a strong chance of winning; contempt is virtually absolute for those who fight against the odds and then lose. But it can also be said that politicians have very little affection or loyalty for leaders who lose the big gamble. If the Palace can claim it has been winning big over the past year, it can also be said to be swollen and hurting from so many stings. A defeat in its people's initiative gambit, and another defeat (or a legal fight bogged down and dragged out) in a House willfully ignoring the Senate, would place Palace supporters in a quandary.

Having invested resources and its authority—even its leadership—in funding, manning and backing the so-called people's initiative and in a House effort to bypass the Senate, only to fail, national and local allies of the President would have to confront two unpleasant scenarios. The first is outright failure in the Supreme Court on two fronts, people's initiative and House-sponsored amendments. The second is defeat in the people's initiative and then a messy fight in the House that leaves up in the air the question as to whether or not an election can be cancelled or at least postponed. In both cases, national and local elections in May will mean the President's allies have to wonder if all-out support for her is still worth it.

It would also be interesting to know if the current scuttlebutt on local politics is true. It has been said that the electorate in congressional races, for example, would ignore national issues, including the question of the President's legitimacy and her policies. But it's said, too, that the President's brother-in-law, Ignacio Arroyo, would lose in his district if elections were held today. There are cases when a candidate is so unpopular that victory is impossible. Multiply that situation and you would have the worst possible outcome for the Palace: not only defeat in high-profile races such as her own brother-in-law's, but also the possibility of opposition-minded congressmen being elected to make possible a third, and this time, successful impeachment.

Combine that with the conventional wisdom that there will be an opposition sweep of the Senate, and you have the conditions for an electoral referendum on the administration. The President, to be sure, would still have a fighting chance of breaking down opposition to her in Congress by judicious use of her ability to withhold or release the pork barrel. But in the event of a popular rejection of her candidates at the polls, the first year, at least, of the new 14th Congress would be difficult for her. And possibly, politically fatal. In the past, no one thought of this scenario as probable; but today it seems within the realm of possibility.

And so the place to watch is the House of Representatives. The action has shifted there—and the shift of momentum must be arrested by the President there, sooner rather than later. Then again, the House may know a thing or two about how the Supreme Court might decide if the former forces a constitutional crisis and fight the Senate to the bitter end.

Disgusting habits

"ANG MGA PILIPINO TALAGA, WALANG MODO," DAD said. When I heard him say that, I could only agree with him.

It was a humid October night, and most of the commercial buildings along the thin, potholed and slightly congested stretch of concrete connecting our subdivision to nearby Commonwealth Avenue already had their store signs lighted. The sun had long set and people were going home to the middle-class subdivisions nearby.

YOUNG BLOOD

Paolo Emmanuel S. Tamase

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Dad was driving home, with my sister and me, and a tricycle zoomed past our vehicle. As it overtook our car, the tricycle spewed out tar-black smoke that clouded our view. After a while, the smoke thinned, and I saw a passenger drop a neon-blue plastic bag, scattering what looked like leftover rice on the already dirty road. Whatever it was, it was certainly garbage, and it did not belong there.

I am not an environmentalist, but I get mad whenever people, in their laziness and impatience, carelessly and insensitively throw their garbage just about anywhere. I cannot understand why people can't make the minimal effort it requires to dispose of their trash properly. But I was about to banish the incident from my thoughts when Dad made his remark about our people's lack of breeding and, like I said, I had to agree with him.

I am tired of seeing piles of garbage grow with each passing day on undeveloped lots and sidewalks. I am tired of seeing buses muscling their way through tiny vehicles on our major thoroughfares and speeding away at 100 kph. I hate to see people ignoring those tacky, pink signs loudly warning that death awaits those who would cross the street at the wrong place, but some people seem to be too lazy to use those overpasses. I am sick of seeing people violate common courtesy by cutting into a line.

For 16 years, I have seen many examples that tend to prove the truth of Dad's observation, but I still cannot accept that we Filipinos have neither principles nor good manners because I have seen others demonstrate that they do. While I have seen several accidents caused by reckless bus drivers, I have also seen countless examples of the *bayanihan* spirit at work. Although I have seen mountains of garbage all over the metropolis, I have also known Filipinos who have stuck to their principles or traveled through mountains to serve others.

Don't get me wrong, my Dad is more Filipino than more than half of this nation's population. Although he can be cynical at times, he still has not given up hope for this nation of so many uncouth citizens. What he said was true only of some of us, and I know that it was only a reflex reaction, a reaction that came from 46 years of frustration, to a disgusting act committed by a young man who was probably my age and who was too lazy to look for the right place to dispose of his garbage.

I share Dad's frustration, as well as his hope.

I have lost count of the tons of garbage in makeshift dumps that I have seen and smelled in my life, and I have seen enough uncivilized bus drivers to last me a lifetime, but I do not lose hope, and I cannot. I believe that so long as there are people among us who believe that this country is a land of gold buried in a layer of mud and that it will continue to give birth to people who will both recognize that fact and do something to make things better, there is still hope. I believe that so long as there are people who are willing to give their time and put their brain, brawn and talent in the service of the nation, there is still hope for our people. I believe that so long as there are people who remember the glorious days of not so long ago and are determined to bring them back, there is still hope for the Philippines.

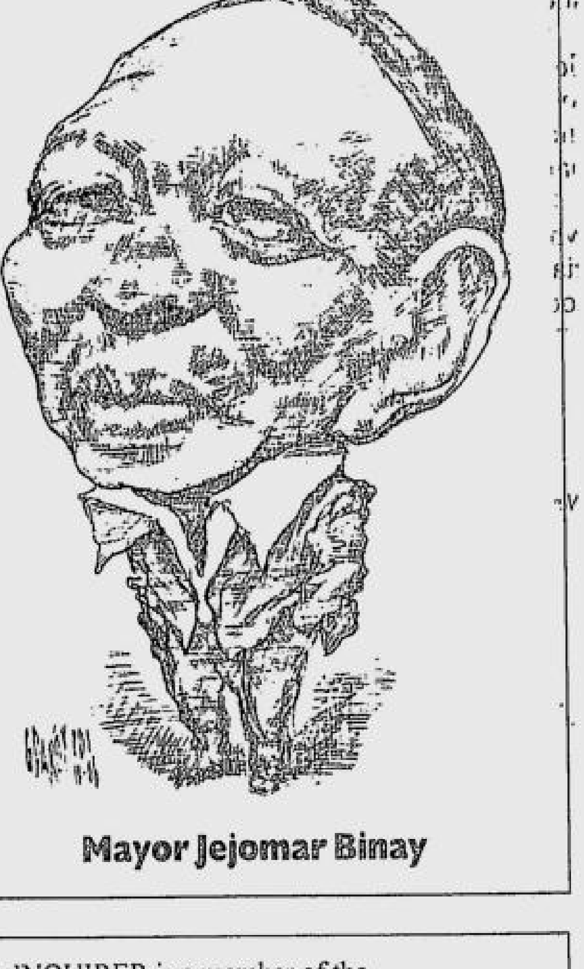
As we neared our subdivision, I saw another pile of garbage on an empty lot near the barangay hall, and my frustrations with our country came back to me. Still I told myself that the time will come when I would no longer have to see such abominations, and Dad would have to take back his words.

Paolo Emmanuel S. Tamase, 16, is third year student at the Ateneo de Manila High School.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Mayor Jejomar Binay

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Gov't in hands of plotters

PEOPLE SHOULD RALLY BEHIND THE Supreme Court, the Senate and the embattled local officials.

There is a virulent and vicious campaign to undermine our democratic institutions. This campaign is spearheaded by powerful personalities who are practically but covertly running the country according to their timeline, under the very nose of the lame-duck presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

These plotters are persistent and patient, clear and precise with their goals. They are adept at instigating low-intensity conflicts, a skill they must have learned either from West Point or from the Philippine Military Academy. In their grand design to openly run this country when the "right" time comes, these conspirators are backed up by communication specialists in and out of the government—and, wittingly or unwittingly, by the press—in their effort to create fear in the hearts and minds of Filipinos.

The Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban; the Senate led by its president, Manuel Villar; known opposition stalwarts like Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Caloocan Mayor Enrico Echiverri and the victims of unsolved killings—activists, religious leaders and members of the press—they are part of the collateral damage in their list.

Thus, it is the moral obligation of the press as The Fourth Estate to unmask these traditional politicians lusting for power. Only an outraged citizenry, especially the youth and the multisectoral groups, can save this country through people power. Let us show our unequivocal and unwavering support for the Supreme Court, the Senate and the elected local officials who are suffering from political persecution, as well as for the families of the victims of injustice.

Let's rally behind them and may the Almighty be with us.

I believe that we need to rewrite our Constitution, but only through a constitutional convention whose delegates are chosen by the Filipino people.

—NIEL ENRILE NARCA,
nnarca@yahoo.com

Typhoon-damaged trees can still be saved by replanting

TREES PARTIALLY UPROOTED BY strong typhoons like Milenyo can still be saved by replanting them after sawing off some or all their branches. I have seen many of these fallen trees with their trunks being sawed, thereby killing whatever life is left in them, instead of saving them.

My 8-year-old April Shower was partially uprooted. We had all its branches cut and then we replanted it, putting compost in the root area. I know that the tree will survive. Replanting not only means transferring seedlings and saplings from their nurseries but also saving trees. It dismays me that partially uprooted or leaning trees are left as they are, or are not given any attention, or worst of all, cut down.

Saving trees can be a complementary undertaking for the Greening the Philippine Highways. It is my gut feel that these fully grown trees—to which a two-year-old sapling cannot compare in size—will be almost fully rehabilitated after two years.

—SONIA S. MENDOZA,
chair, Mother Earth Foundation,
59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC

Time for lifestyle check on UP alumni in gov't

I FULLY SUPPORT THE MOVE OF THE UP Alumni Association (UPAA) to start rating the premier university's graduates occupying key government positions on their performance, commitment, lifestyle and integrity. (PDI, 10/16/06)

Likewise, I favor the plan of the UPAA to rate President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has a master's degree in Economics in UP, and the nine members of her Cabinet who also graduated from the state university.

May I suggest that the UPAA also look into the performance and lifestyle of UP alumni who hold elective positions at barangay up to gubernatorial levels.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

No dictator, GMA open to free flow of ideas

IN HIS OCT. 12 COLUMN, RAMON TULfo chided the President for not being "in control" of her people. He said, "If she can't hold them by the leash, then she's not in control of the country's problems."

May I politely remind Tulfo that leashes are used only on dogs that bite. A democratic system thrives on the free expression and interplay of ideas. We may not like some of the ideas, but we must respect the persons who express them and, perhaps, learn a grain of truth or two from even the most stupid among them. To outrightly dismiss the ideas of others is to betray a presumptuous claim to a monopoly of intelligence.

The President cannot—should not—put a leash on her people. To do so would be to prevent the free interplay of ideas, which is the very strength of a free and democratic system. Yes, discipline is important. But to say that the President should use a leash to control the expression of contrary ideas is to ask her to be dictatorial. The President is not a dictator, which is why she allows the free flow of ideas on issues so vital to our nation. God forbid that she should close her mind to ideas other than her own.

It would be a different matter if, after having made a decision based on a careful assessment of those ideas, someone from her team would still refuse to concede. Then, and only then, should she take control.

—NICOLAS B. VARONA,
Calbayog City

Octogenarians invited to hail life in laughter

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO MY FELLOW Octoberian-Octogenarians—those aged 80 to 89—who are still on the go. Join me in welcoming the birth of 2007.

Let us acknowledge God's gifts: music, laughter and song through the remaining years of our lives. In spite of the physical pains that come with aging, let's continue to walk, even if we have to limp, toward the entrance to His Mansion bringing with us His gifts of music, laughter and song in our whole being.

Come, fellow octogenarians, come!/The fact that we are still mobile/Reveals that we are far from senile.

Smile! Fellow octogenarians, smile!/ Though teary eyes beguile/And steady hands belie/They confirm that we are very much alive!

Listen! Fellow octogenarians, listen!/Tap your feet with the tilting waltz/Invitingly awaits the spacious aisle/On the dance floor let the music energize!

Now let us pray:

Thank you again, Father God, for the irrevocable historical decades long gone, our past. Temper, Father God, our chaotically, violence-prone, scary present with Your mercy. We implore, Father God, that Thy will be done with compassion in Jesus' name. Amen.

—ROSARIO R. LIBERATO,
Sta. Lucia, Pasig City 1608

Wrong sense of values

IF EVER CHARTER CHANGE BECOMES A reality, I hope that the new Constitution will contain the following provision: "Free access to education shall not be denied any person by reason of poverty."

Should there not be a provision like this, in the same manner that the present Constitution mandates that "free access to the courts shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty"?

Education is a universal right, and no one should be denied this right just because he/she is poor. In fact, in some countries, one can get an education—from kindergarten to university—free of charge. But in the Philippines, only the rich and the socially privileged can afford to send their children to such schools as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, and the only exceptions are the poor but highly gifted students, who have to figuratively pass through the eye of the needle to be able to graduate from these institutions.

It is true that the government allocates a large percentage of the annual national budget to education. But why are there so many pupils without classrooms, students without books and teachers who have to sell items just to make ends meet? Where does all that money go—to the pockets of their superiors such as regional directors, superintendents, principals, etc?

Does it not rile your conscience that in this country people who are responsible for protecting lives, guiding young minds and even shaping the future of this nation are miserably paid? Policemen and firemen and teachers are underpaid, while comedians, actors and actresses and politicians are highly paid? Where is our sense of values?

When a nation places its politicians, actors and comedians on a higher pedestal of honor than it does its teachers and philosophers, thinkers and writers, something is really wrong.

—REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE,
United Church of Christ,
San Nicolas, Pangasinan 2445

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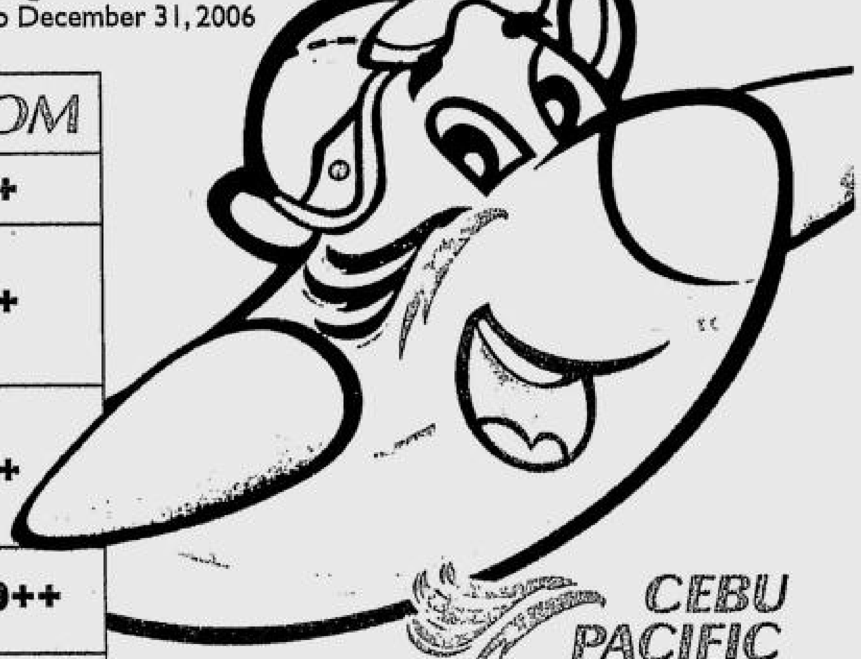

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Carpio's opening paragraph says it all

From page A1

Before the decision of the court came out yesterday, I had just written my comments on the content of the Sigaw ng Bayan draft. I said that the draft was very brief in its duplicity, because instead of proposing a complete document, it proposed instructions on how to make the complete document.

Carpio's opinion confirms my conclusion.

Main points

Let me summarize the main points made by Carpio.

First, the Lambino group failed to satisfy the basic requisite of Section 2 of Article XVII. "The essence of amendments 'directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition' is that the entire proposal on its face is a petition by the people. This means two essential elements must be present.

"First, the people must author and thus sign the entire proposal. No agent or representative can sign on their behalf. Second, as an initiative upon a petition, the proposal must be embodied in a petition."

This was not followed.

Hence, the people who signed could not have known that:

- The term limits on members of the legislature would be lifted and thus members of Parliament could be reelected indefinitely.
- The interim Parliament would continue to function indefinitely until its members, who are almost all the present members of Congress, should decide to call for new parliamentary elections; thus, the members of the interim Parliament would determine the expiration of their own term of office.
- Within 45 days from the ratification of the proposed changes, the interim Parliament should convene to propose further amendments or revisions to the Constitution.

Proposal a revision

Second, Carpio said that initiative could not be used for revision but only for amendment and that what was being proposed was a revision:

"By any legal test and under any jurisdiction, a shift from a bicameral-presidential to a unicameral-parliamentary system, involving the abolition of the Office of the President and the abolition of one chamber of Congress, is beyond doubt a revision, not a mere amendment. On the face alone of the Lambino group's proposed changes, it is readily apparent that the changes will radically alter the framework of government as set forth in the Constitution."

Again, this is what I had been saying all along.

Carpio also summed up the reason for not allowing revision to be done by initiative and referendum:

"Since a revision of a constitution affects basic principles, or several provisions of a Constitution, a deliberative body with recorded proceedings is best suited to undertake a revision. A revision requires harmonizing not only several provisions but also the altered principles with those that remain unaltered.

Avoid revisiting a ruling

"Thus, constitutions normally authorize deliberative bodies like constituent assemblies or constitutional conventions to undertake revisions. On the other hand, constitutions allow people's initiatives, which do not have fixed and identifiable deliberative bodies or recorded proceedings, to undertake only amendments and not revisions."

Third, having said all of these, Carpio did not think it necessary to revisit the 1997 case of Santiago v. Comelec, which had said that Republic Act No. 6735 was not a sufficient law for implementing amendment by initiative and referendum.

"This court must avoid revisiting a ruling involving the constitutionality of a statute if the case before the court can be resolved on some other grounds. Such avoidance is a logical consequence of the well-settled doctrine that courts will not pass upon the constitutionality of a statute if the case can be resolved on some other grounds."

So, is RA 6735 dead as far as amendment of the Constitution is concerned? I still have to go over all the individual opinions to find out if there is a majority holding that it is sufficient for initiative and referendum.

Abuse of discretion

Finally, what of the argument that the Comelec had abused its discretion in dismissing the Sigaw petition? The answer is simple: The Comelec could not have abused its discretion when it simply followed the un-revisited decision of the Supreme Court in Santiago v. Comelec.

What follows next? The vote was a narrow 8-7. Since the current administration is interested in a different decision, you can be sure that the main lawyer of the government, the solicitor general, will lead the charge in a motion for reconsideration. As in the case of suspension of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, government defenders will be saying it ain't over until it's over.

I hope to say more tomorrow after reading the other opinions.

DENR opposed waste dumping in trade deal but gave in to DTI

From page A1

Defensor, who became presidential chief of staff early this year, invoked the prohibitions under the Basel Convention to which both the Philippines and Japan are parties, and Republic Act No. 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, which bans the transport or entry of toxic materials into the country even for transit.

"We would like to reiterate our position that we are for the exclusion from trading under the JPEPA all wastes and scraps prohibited for trade under the Basel Convention and/or under our national laws/rules and regulations," Defensor said in a letter to then DTI Secretary Juan Santos.

"Moreover, the Department is for the exclusion or delisting from trade under the JPEPA prohibited ozone depleting substances/chemicals falling within the jurisdiction of this Office," he said.

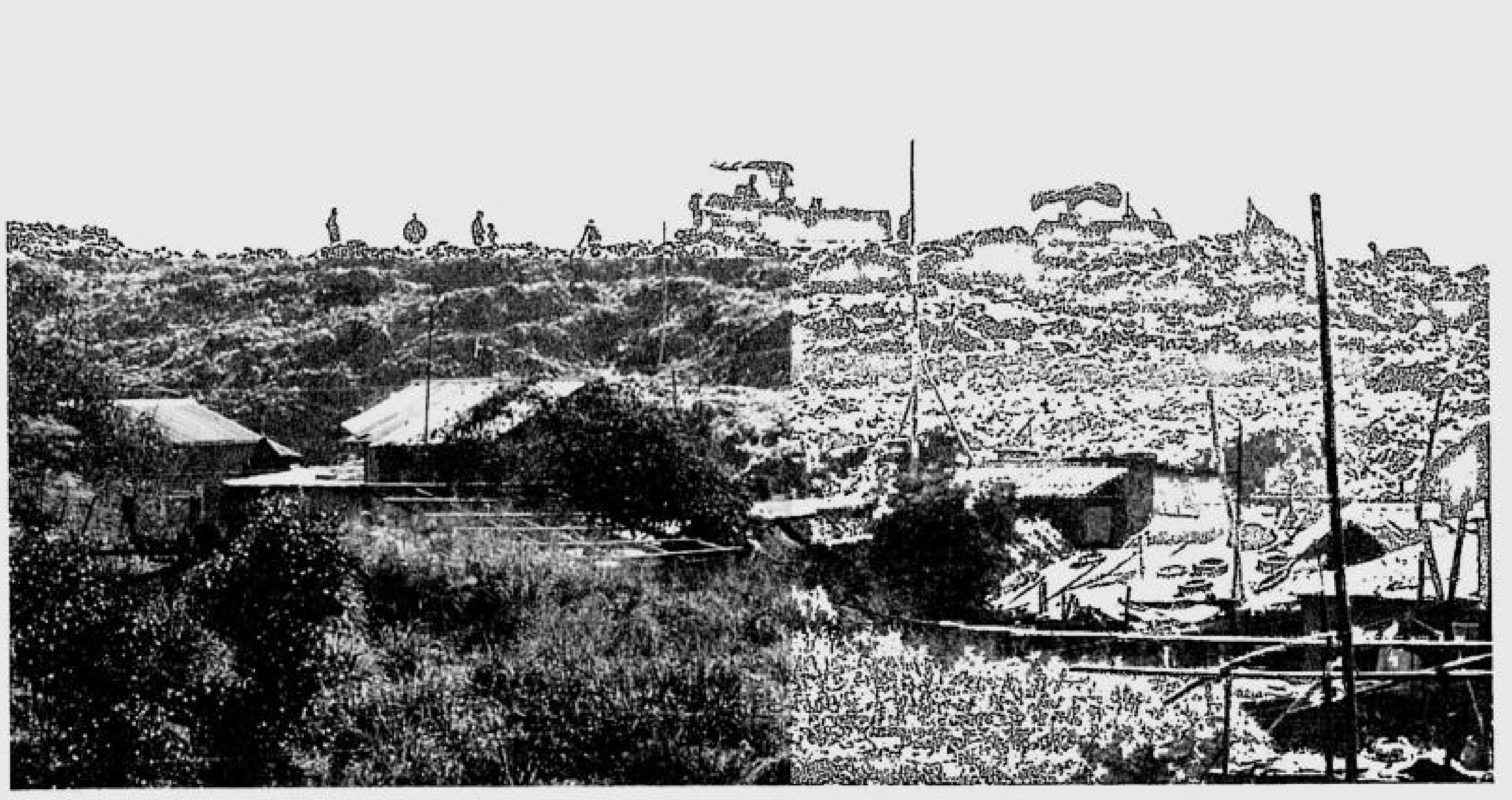
The letter dated July 13, 2005 was the second official communication submitted by the DENR to the DTI, which sought the comment of DENR officials on the tariff schedules for waste and scraps in a letter dated April 18, 2005.

In its first reply on May 16, 2005, the DENR informed the DTI that it was amenable to the proposed tariff reductions on forestry and mineral products, and the tariff reduction schedules set by the DTI for all the other tradable goods except the toxic and hazardous wastes.

Most waste products, including municipal waste, incinerator ash from the burning of municipal waste, ash and residues containing mercury and other chemicals, clinical waste, sewage sludge, fall into category A of the tariff schedule which mandates "immediate elimination (of tariffs) once the JPEPA comes into force."

"Please be informed that the importation of or exportation into the country of the wastes and scraps being referred to by your Office are prohibited under the Basel Convention in which the Philippines is a Contracting Party," Defensor said.

"Relative to this, we are of the view that there is no need to include in trade negotiations, such as under JPEPA, goods/products with prohibitions from being traded," he said.



SMOKEY MOUNTAIN REVISITED: From the Coastal Road, motorists can't miss the garbage piling up at Barangay Longos in Las Piñas City near the Wawa River.

ROGER MARGALLO

Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal was crafted to stop unbridled free trade of toxic waste, products and technologies. The treaty came into force on May 5, 1992, imposing controls on the movement of hazardous materials and enforcing a total ban on dumping in Antarctica.

Strong lobbying by environmental activists and poor countries, particularly from Africa, which remained dumping grounds of toxic and hazardous wastes in the guise of recyclable materials, led to an amendment.

On Jan. 1, 1998, the treaty banned all exports of hazardous waste from the most industrialized members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.

Japan, a member of the OECD, and the Philippines a non-OECD country, were among 66 countries that approved the amendment to the Basel Convention, now known as the Basel Ban.

The Philippines, however, continues to allow the entry of "recyclable materials containing hazardous substances" for recovery, recycling and reprocessing, but this is regulated by the DENR.

Wastes allowed entry

The DENR only allows the following items to enter the country:

- Scrap metals including sludge containing precious and associated metals, ferrous and nonferrous scraps and alloys, and metals bearing waste arising from melting.
- Lead acid batteries.
- Solid plastic materials, including resins, waste parings.
- Electronic assemblies and scrap including circuit boards, televisions, stereo, etc.
- Used oil or residue except tanker sludge.
- Coal-fired power plant fly ash except those that cannot be used for cement production.

Environment Undersecretary Demetrio L. Ignacio said the DENR had been telling the DTI that it was "no use" negotiating on the wastes because of domestic and international laws banning negotiations on those goods.

But the DTI informed the DENR that "the terms of reference have already been drawn up by Japan" and that the Philippines can still implement its laws.

Japan apparently has similar terms in its bilateral agreements with other countries, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, whose members are working to ink separate treaties with Japan as part of the Asean-Japan economic integration efforts.

Threat of no agreement

"The JPEPA, we were told, was an all-or-nothing proposition, that if we don't agree in one or two products of the 11,300 there will be no agreement," Ignacio said.

"One of the most critical items in the JPEPA for us was the trade in services allowing our overseas workers, our health professionals in Japan, and that was very important to the Philippines," he said.

"So the issue to us was: Do we stick to our position and not have an agreement with Japan that will be beneficial to our health workers and other workers and producers? Or go along with the DTI, anyway those products that are banned will continue to be banned and those products that are regulated will continue to be regulated?"

On June 30, 2006 or two months before President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed the JPEPA on Sept. 9 on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, the DENR through another letter finally gave the green light to the waste trade liberalization.

Replying to a May 19, 2006 letter from DTI's Aquino "requesting for the favorable decision," new Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes informed also the new Trade Secretary Peter Favila who took over from Santos, that the DENR was giving a conditional concurrence.

DENR conditions

The conditions set by the DENR were:

- The tariff liberalization will not compromise current and future laws banning and regulating the trade and entry of hazardous products.
- Assistance will be provided to the DENR and other agencies to enhance their capabilities to implement the ban.

Ignacio said the DENR was certain that the Philippines would not get the banned products out of JPEPA, but from breaches in the enforcement of laws at the ports of entry. "It's a function of enforcement, not JPEPA," Ignacio said.

"It's such a naive thing to say," said Tanya Lat, lawyer for Akbayan, which has been following the issue. "We are all aware of corruption at the ports."

The Ecowaste Coalition, a network of 50 organizations, said the JPEPA has raised fears that there would be a repeat of the 1999 "waste scandal" that saw the arrival of a 6,000-ton shipment of infectious hospital and municipal waste from Japan at the Manila South Harbor. Declared as waste paper for recycling from Yugengaisha Nisso company in Tochigi, Japan, the shipment was sent back.

IN THE KNOW

Japanese trash

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION says that in 2002, each person in Japan produced 1.1 kilogram of waste per day, which translated to some 52 million tons of waste that year.

As one of the most industrialized countries, Japan generated in 1999 around 400 million tons of industrial waste, almost eight times more than its solid waste. Its healthcare waste reached around 430,000 tons.

Of Japan's total wastes in 1999, 3.3 million tons were considered as toxic and hazardous.

WHO also says that in 2001, only 15 percent of the country's municipal solid waste and 46 percent of industrial waste were recyclable.

With limited disposal sites, Japan burns as much garbage as it can. It has around 1,890 household-waste incinerators, the world's highest. Still, it looks around for dumps.

In 1999, a Japanese company shipped into the Philippines 6,000 tons of wastes that included used diapers, stained sanitary napkins, disposable plastic syringes and surgical gloves. The incident drew complaints and prompted Japan to take back the shipment. *Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*

Senate indignant, CBCP sad over 'toxic' accord

From page A1

mitments a month after the pact's signing," she said.

"It should be scrutinized thoroughly, especially on its environmental and trade imbalance implications," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang would review all products covered by JPEPA. "We will not agree to become a dumping ground," said Ermita, who acknowledged he was unaware that toxic wastes were among items with zero tariffs that could get into the country.

He said the Philippines and Japan were "conscious of the need to protect each other's interests." He added that "anything that would hurt the other's interest would be avoided."

"As a citizen, I'm against the plan," Lagdameo told the Church-run Radio Veritas. "I feel bad that Filipinos and the whole world will know that the Philippines will be used as dump site by Japan."

Environmentalists have criticized the agreement which President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed on Sept. 9 in Helsinki, Finland.

Lagdameo was concerned about the effects on the environment of the entry of toxic and hazardous waste. Protection of the environment has been a major concern of the Catholic Church. "We should take care of our environment because it's created by God and it is not ours. We have the responsibility to hand it over to future generations," Lagdameo said.

Trade expert

Jeremy I. Gatdula, a lawyer specializing on trade advisory services, dismissed claims by trade officials that toxic wastes would not be allowed into the country because they are banned by existing national and international laws. He said treaties, once ratified, could override laws in conflict with these pacts.

"To say that toxic wastes would not be allowed in because they are banned is simply not conclusively true because the JPEPA can be said to have overridden the ban (once ratified by the Senate)," Gatdula said.

"To say that in a free trade agreement (FTA), all tariffs for products need to be covered and lowered is also not correct," Gatdula said.

What the World Trade Organization rules actually say is that parties have to include "substantially all trade" in an FTA and not "all trade," Gatdula explained

Senior Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, the chief JPEPA negotiator, said the pact was an all-trade agreement which covered all products that both countries trade.

Gatdula said the meaning of "substantially all-trade" was still subject to discussion even in the WTO because some countries interpret this to mean 60 percent, 70 percent or 80 percent of trade.

'Like a game of poker'

In a briefing yesterday, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the inclusion of waste was just part of the negotiating strategy. "Like in a game of poker, a good player lays out the weakest cards first to hide the aces," Favila said. "Our ace cards are the products we want to protect."

Marilyn Alarilla of the Department of Foreign Affairs said that since both the Philippines and Japan were signatories to the Basel Convention, this international accord on the trade of wastes "takes precedence" over JPEPA.

Asked whether this "understanding" on the Basel Convention was reflected in any way in the JPEPA text or any attached document, Alarilla said it was not cited per se in the agreement since it is "binding practice in bilateral agreements of this nature."

What was made explicit in the JPEPA was that "we will respect safety and environment standards of both parties," said Alarilla, the DFA executive director for international economic relations.

"We have sufficient safeguards put in place in this respect," Alarilla said.

Asked how come the trade in wastes was still covered by the JPEPA despite existing restrictions in the Philippines, she said: "The World Trade Organization prescribes that this bilateral free trade agreement should eliminate tariffs on substantially all trade, which could mean 90 percent of trade."

The INQUIRER called the Japanese Embassy in Manila for comment but the mission has yet to give a reply as of press time yesterday. *Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, Ronnel W. Domingo, Volt Contreras*

Across the NATION

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Bomb found at parking lot of Iloilo City mall

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A DOG DISCOVERed a bomb at the parking lot of a shopping mall here before noon yesterday.

Chief Supt. Geary Barias, Western Visayas police director, said a "sniffer" dog handled by security personnel of the Robinsons Place Iloilo discovered the improvised explosive around 11:30 a.m. at a ledge of the mall's second level parking area along Quezon, De Leon, Ledesma and Mabini streets.

But Barias said there was no danger for the improvised bomb to explode because it lacked a timing device that would trigger an explosion.

The bomb was found wrapped in a black plastic bag similar to trash bags. Found inside the plastic bag were an electric detonator, blasting cap, an aluminum cylinder and 28 grams of black powder, similar to the ones used in firecrackers.

The mall's security personnel immediately called the explosive and ordnance section of the police regional office in Camp Martin Delgado here.

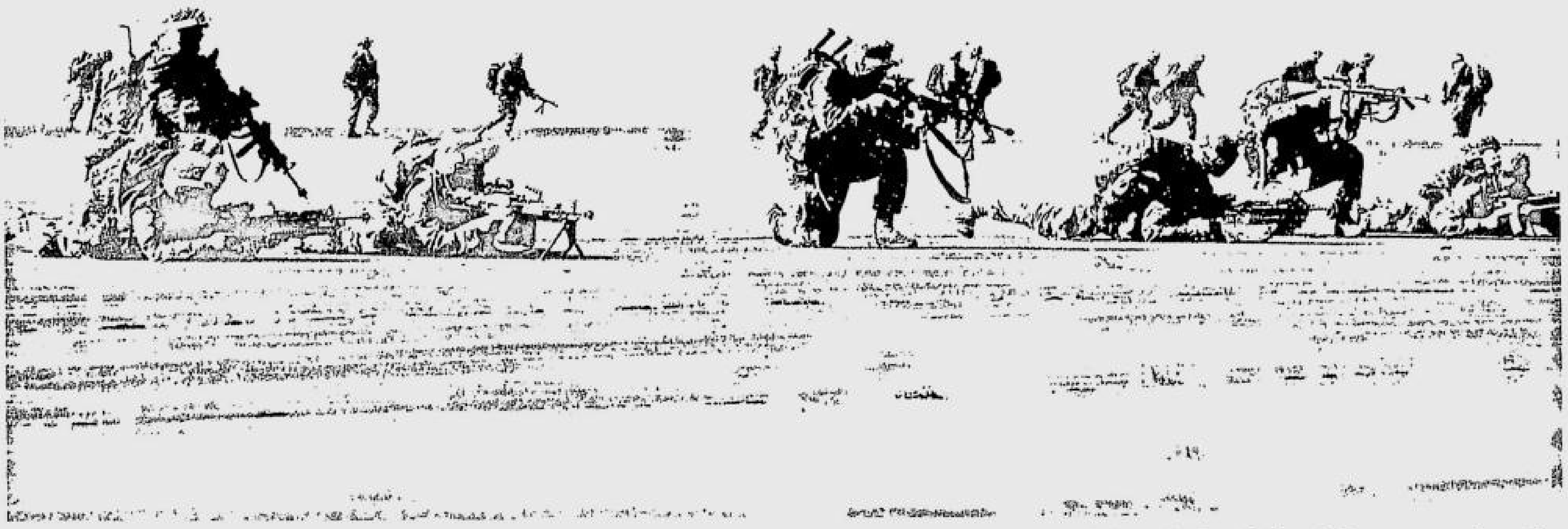
Barias said the amount of black powder was less than the volume of a "pill box," an improvised explosive.

"Even if the parts were completed and assembled, it would not cause a strong explosion. The intention was to scare or to cause minor injuries," Barias told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Police said the planting of the explosive could be the work of communist rebels.

Barias said police last week received intelligence reports that operatives of the New People's Army had entered the city and had planned to disrupt the concert of a popular movie star and singer last Saturday.

He said this could be a diversionary tactic of the rebels to divert police attention.



US MARINES from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, from Okinawa simulate a lightning raid to recover an abduction victim at the Basa Air Base in Pampanga province. The exercise was part of the Talon Vision Exercise between US and Philippine troops.

TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Bulacan, Pampanga are priority areas in counterinsurgency drive

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—TOP MILITARY and police officials in Central Luzon on Tuesday finalized the joint counterinsurgency campaign in the region, setting the neighboring provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga as priority areas.

The coordinated drive sought to "sustain the momentum in the twin tasks of neutralizing communist rebels and dismantling their political structures in the barangays," Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said in a phone interview on Wednesday.

As the military concentrates its efforts in the remaining rebel fronts and in areas where communist armies have shifted their forces, the police would operate in "white areas" or towns and cities that provide logistics, financial and mass support to guerrillas, Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, regional police director, said.

"We will take an active support role," Rafanan said.

The New People's Army had maintained at least 13 rebel fronts and at least 1,000 fighters prior to the all-out military campaign in June under retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, a report from the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) showed.

Nolcom estimated the strength of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan at not less than 200.

In separate interviews, Gomez and Rafanan described the campaign as a "substantial integration" of efforts in internal security operations to be able to provide a good investment climate in Central Luzon.

Pampanga and Bulacan are sites of big infrastructure projects by the Arroyo administration. These are the $1-billion North Rail System and the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway funded by loans from China and Japan, respectively.

The region also hosts the Clark Special Economic Zone and the Subic Bay Freeport, former American military bases converted for industrial, commercial and tourism uses.

Gomez said while Bulacan and Pampanga are taken for "final clearing," the campaign in Aurora, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales would ensure that these provinces would not be "recovered" by communist armies.

Gomez and Rafanan said the campaign would include social, economic and political components that would be handled by the local governments.

Executive Order 546 authorizes local governments to use their peace and order fund to support the antiinsurgency drive, Rafanan said.

"[Local governments] would have to help address the root causes of the problem," he said.

"We want a more coordinated campaign, which will have to be evaluated by local governments, nongovernment organizations, people's organizations and the communities as we go along," Gomez said.

"We will assess the impact of the military and police campaign vis-à-vis the social, political and economic work of the civilian sector. We want to know if the program is favorable to the communities and the people… The end aim is to bring peace and progress," he said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Indians told to sue BI agents for kidnapping

FERNANDEZ

BAGUIO CITY—IMMIGRATION Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. has urged Indians who were harassed and illegally arrested by Bureau of Immigration agents to file kidnapping charges against the agency's erring personnel.

Fernandez said he has ordered an investigation of reports that some immigration intelligence agents have been arresting Indian businessmen and demanding money in exchange for their freedom using unauthorized "mission orders" from the BI.

"When a BI agent comes to you, demand the original copy of a mission order with my signature. Without it, the arrest is illegal. You have the right to resist it. No immigration official has the right to issue a mission order without my approval," he said.

Fernandez said he is the only person who has the authority to sign and issue a mission order against illegal aliens in the country.

He said BI employees found guilty of graft and corrupt practices would be subject to a "strict disciplinary action."

Representatives of the 200-member Indian community in the city expressed concern over their safety following two murder cases and a string of extortion and robbery cases that have victimized some of them.

Indian businessman Sanjiv Kumar said immigration agents Simeon Eleria and Armando Talatala, both based in Manila, arrested him on Oct. 16 on the strength of a mission order signed by Associate Immigration Commissioner Jose Cabochan.

Fernandez, however, said he did not authorize Cabochan to order Kumar's arrest because their records showed that the Indian is a "properly documented alien."

Kumar, in a complaint for extortion and robbery filed at the city prosecutor's office, said Eleria, Talatala and another companion presented a mission order when they arrested him on Oct. 16.

The agents, Kumar said, took him to Metro Manila and detained him at the Bicutan detention center. Eleria and Talatala allegedly demanded P400,000 from Kumar in exchange for his release.

In August this year, Kumar paid Eleria and Talatala P200,000 after the agents threatened to kill him if he did not heed their demand, according to the complaint.

But Eleria, in a phone interview, said Kumar's arrest was legal as he was enforcing a mission order issued by Cabochan.

"We do not conduct operations without a mission order," Eleria told the INQUIRER.

He said he coordinated the operation with Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, former Baguio police chief.

Nerez, however, said he asked his men to assist the BI agents because he thought the mission was legitimate.

Fernandez said he was not aware of the operations that Eleria and Talatala conducted against Indian businessmen in Baguio.

"I did not authorize, approve or sign a mission order against those foreigners," he said. *Gobleth Moulic, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

'… Indian businessman Sanjiv Kumar said immigration agents Simeon Eleria and Armando Talatala…arrested him on Oct. 16 …'

Firm hauls out 45 trucks of its toxic waste

SAN PABLO CITY—SOME 45 truckloads of contaminated mixture of soil and liquefied toxic wastes and more than 100 drums containing hazardous industrial byproducts have been retrieved by a waste recycling firm in dumps in Candelaria and Sariaya towns in Quezon province.

The Clean Earth Solution International Inc. (CESII) hauled the wastes out of the dumps following their discovery recently.

Ben Garao, CESII plant supervisor, said that since last week, the firm had already sent more than 30 of its plant workers to the two sites to work double time to retrieve the hazardous wastes that were dumped in the area.

"They will not leave the place without collecting all the wastes. Not a single trace of wastes will be left behind," Garao said.

He said the cleanup operations would take a few more days to finish.

However, a company official immediately clarified that the cleanup effort should not be construed as an admission of guilt on their part.

"The on-going massive cleanup in the two sites was a voluntary decision of the company. Yes, we have found few of our waste containers in the dumps but most of the drums do not belong to us," said Ramon Raquid, CESII consultant.

The company insisted that some of its waste containers were stolen from the plant.

Lawyer Peter Joey Usita, CESII counsel, said there was "no substantial evidence that the company is directly and proximately liable for transporting, dumping, or discharging prohibited chemicals, substances or pollutants."

On Oct. 6, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau in Southern Tagalog issued a cease-and-desist order to stop the operations of the CESII plant after the dumps' discovery.

"Once the plant resumes operation, these contaminated soil will be the first to be treated," Enrico Gahuman, CESII plant worker, said.

"Hopefully, the government will allow the plant to operate soon. We don't want our families to face a bleak Christmas. The closure of the plant was unfair," he said.

Last week, Joshua Kim, a South Korean national and CESII vice president, sued Roberto Sheen, regional director of DENR-EMB, for allegedly acting with "malicious intent, manifest partiality, evident bad faith and grave abuse of authority" when the latter caused the temporary closure of the plant. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

ROUNDUP

6.2 quake rocks S. Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A tectonic quake with a magnitude of 6.2 rocked Southern Mindanao and General Santos City around 11 a.m. Tuesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. Phivolcs said the epicenter of the quake was traced 272 kilometers southeast of General Santos City. The tremor was due to the movement of the Sangiha Trench, according to the Phivolcs. No damage was immediately reported but Phivolcs said it was expecting aftershocks.

Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao

1 dead in smashup

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Maguindanao—One person died while two others were injured when a group of men headed to the beach for the Eid celebrations figured in a accident along the national highway here on Monday. Town police chief Senior Insp. Fatima Malao said Noniwali Abdullah was on a Honda motorbike along with two others on their way to Kusiong beach for a family get-together when they smashed a speeding Isuzu truck. "[Abdullah] died on the spot with a fractured skull," Malao said. She said Abdullah's companions, Ismael Saligan and Ricky Salik, were critically injured. Malao said results of the initial investigation disclosed that Abdullah tried to overtake another vehicle and failed to notice the truck on the opposite lane.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Employee nabbed for drugs

COTABATO CITY—Lawmen here arrested on Saturday an employee of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for possession of illegal drugs. Rene Orbe, chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said Gregorio Digao, NCIP tribal affairs assistant based in Tagum City in Davao del Norte, was collared at the bus terminal here. Orbe said Digao has been under surveillance for some time because of his involvement in the drugs trade. He said the suspect yielded 10 grams of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride when frisked.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Flash floods displace 9,000 families

DAVAO CITY—At least 9,000 families or 345,000 individuals were affected when flash floods hit the towns of Carmen, Sto. Tomas and Braulio Dujali in Davao del Norte over the weekend, disaster officials said yesterday. The flood came following heavy rains that also affected other areas of Southern Mindanao. As of Tuesday, the said towns were still submerged in water. In Carmen, a resident identified as Nestor Prado, 29, has been reported missing after crossing a river, according to reports reaching the Office of Civil Defense-Southern Mindanao here. Carmelito Lupo, OCD regional chief, said they have initiated a relocation plan for the affected families, especially those living in the low-lying areas. Lupo also said the OCD needed food supply for the flood victims. He said the flood severely damaged farm crops, infrastructure facilities and livestock, costing about P38 million. At least P33 million worth of crops and other properties have been damaged in Braulio Dujali town alone. In Carmen town, the floods damaged about P5.7 million in crops.

Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Oil pilferage gang members held

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three suspected members of a syndicate involved in oil pilferage were caught by the Batangas police intelligence while illegally transferring petroleum from a tank owned by Petron in San Pascual, Batangas on Thursday night. Senior Supt. Abner Cabalquinto, officer in charge of the Calabarzon police, identified the suspects as Richard Macatangay, 26; Erwin San Juan, 33; and Ramil Prela, 24, all residents of Barangay Sta. Rita, Batangas City. In a report, Cabalquinto said the three were caught while transferring gasoline from a delivery tank of Petron in Barangay Danglayan, San Pascual at around 6:45 p.m.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

All is fare in air travel war in Bicol

By Delma L. Peyra
Legazpi City

BRIAN BARRANDA, A BICOLANO executive now based in Manila, used to lament: "I can't help comparing that air fare to Cebu, where I am often sent on business trips, costs much less than a plane trip home to Legazpi."

The distance parameters: Legazpi, the regional center of Bicol, is only 534 kilometers south of Manila, while Cebu City is 587 km.

In 2005, when Philippine Airlines was the lone airline plying the 45-minute flight to Manila, a plane fare cost more than P3,000 one way.

Weeks and even months before holidays and family visits, most of the tickets were sold.

With no more plane seats available, Barranda would either travel from Manila by bus or car for 10-12 hours along the so-called "South Road" that's nice on the view, but short on comfort.

The familiar lament is no longer heard now.

The ongoing fare promos are offering one-way plane tickets for as cheap as P1,500 all-in. The sooner one buys a ticket, the cheaper it is.

And seldom does it happen now that when one needs to leave for Manila as soon as possible, flights would be fully booked. No fear or hassle, for one can surely get a seat on the same day on any of the three airlines—Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines and PAL.

And for those who have the luxury of choice to travel either by land or air, the opportunity for relative flexibility in travel hours is a boon in this part of Luzon.

PAL's daily early-morning flights to and from Legazpi and Manila are now balanced by the availability of afternoon flights of newcomer Cebu Pacific, which entered the field in August.

For Rosemarie Rey, president of the Albay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and who manages the operations of her businesses in Legazpi and in Manila, the convenience of being able to travel within the same day does a lot for productivity.

Recently, when the INQUIRER interviewed her for a business story, Rey was in Manila in the morning. Before 3 p.m., she was back in Legazpi via Cebu Pacific—and was entertaining visitors there by four.

Air traffic up

In March, Air Philippines, which serviced the Legazpi-Manila, Legazpi-Cebu routes in previous years when it was still owned by the Gatchalian family, made a comeback.

"We received requests from the local government to add more flights, in addition to the once-a-day flight service of PAL," relates Antonio Cua, Air Philippines manager in Legazpi.

On Oct. 16, the Lucio Tan-owned airline adjusted its thrice-a-week mid-afternoon flights by flying daily on a midday schedule (plane leaves 10 a.m. Manila, reaching Legazpi 55 minutes later; plane leaves Legazpi at 11:25 a.m.).

Air Philippines works in complementary way with the flag carrier. Each can take bookings for one another—making the air seats of Air Philippines a virtual add-on to those of PAL.

A total of more than 400 plane seats one-way are now available daily.

This came as Cebu Pacific's Air Bus 310 added 150 seats to the two Boeing 737-200 planes of PAL and Air Philippines, which carry a combined passenger capacity of 286.

Just six months after Air Philippines' comeback and one month after Cebu Pacific's entry, total air passenger traffic—which measures total departures and arrivals of passengers—rose by 20 percent to 81,547 in January to August, from just 67,718 for the same period in 2005, according to statistics from the Air Transportation Office.

Air cargo movement has also gone up by 26 percent for the first eight months, compared to the same period in 2005.

By end-August this year, the Legazpi airport saw the movement (incoming and outgoing) of 620,372 kilograms of cargo so far—just short by more than 100,000 kg of the total air cargo movement for 2005 when PAL was the lone airline.

Air Philippines already carried 17.6 percent of the total cargo as of August, or more than 100,000 kg.

There must to be something to the fare war-of-sorts going on. Virtually all three airlines are now offering the same pricing structure, starting at P1,400-P1,500 more or less—with a ceiling of P3,000-plus for those who reserve late.

PAL, whose passenger load is down 60-69 percent from a previous 90 percent when it was the lone airline, has caught on the game.

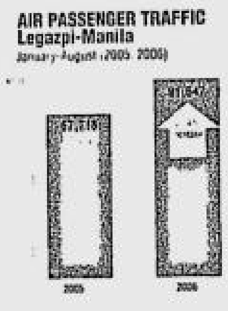
"We guarantee the lowest fares (for as low as P1,572) on a five-day advance booking," says Romeo Caraan, PAL branch manager.

Cebu Pacific, which caused a big ripple among travelers here when it announced "P99++" promo fares upon its entry in Bicol in August, plays it steady with its image of a low-fare airline.

Its 10-tier fare system, which starts at P1,437, all-in, aims to cater to all economic classes. "We would like to serve Bicolanos from all walks of life, if possible," says Cebu Pacific-Legazpi station officer Albert Narvaez.

With regard to the fare promos of the three airlines indefinitely on, Cua says, "we are testing the purchasing power of the customers."

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA



AIR TRAFFIC from Legazpi to Manila has increased since three airlines scheduled flights to the city.

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Giants outlast Pals in 3 OTs

Sta. Lucia whips Red Bull

By Musong R. Castillo

MARC PINGRIS HIT A CRUCIAL SHORT stab and provided the defensive play that finally lifted Purefoods to a 109-103 triple overtime conquest of Talk 'N Text last night in the eliminations of the PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pingris gave the Chunkee Giants a 106-103 lead with 44.1 to play before smothering a Marc Cardona layup that completed a 20-point fightback by the defending champions in the league's longest game in two years.

It was the second straight victory in a 3-3 card for the Giants, who on Saturday also squandered a 20-point deficit before narrowly prevailing over Sta. Lucia in an out-of-town game in San Fernando, La Union.

So tense and taxing was the game last night that players used timeouts for oxygen intake and Purefoods assistant coach Koy Banal had to be treated for dizziness early in the third overtime.

Kerby Raymundo also established a record by playing for an all-time high 61 minutes. He scored 31 points to lead the Giants but had some crucial blunders late in the first extension which could have given Talk 'N Text the victory that early.

The Phone Pals, after opening up with three straight victories, dropped out of the lead with a 4-1 card. The winner of the Sta. Lucia-Red Bull contest at presstime will occupy solo second place.

James Yap scored 28 points and Peter June Simon and Pingris had 14 each as the Giants pounced on the disqualification of big Phone Pals Asi Taulava and Don Allado to pound out the win.

Taulava forged the first extension at 81, the second overtime with a split off a Roger Yap foul at 88 before two Raymundo free throws off Asi's sixth foul with 26 seconds left sealed a third extension at 99.

"Well, this win showed that we had the lungs to play such a long game," coach Ryan Gregorio said. "Not only that, also the heart, because we persevered and never gave up."

More stories on A21 to 24

Purefoods slowly worked its way back from an 18-38 deficit in the second period.

In the second game, Sta. Lucia ripped Red Bull, 105-83, to take the tournament lead at 4-1. Red Bull fell to 3-2.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 109—Raymundo 31, J. Yap 28, Simon 14, Pingris 14, R. Yap 9, Evangelista 5, Artadi 4, Limpot 4, Salvador 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 103—Cardona 21, Taulava 17, Carey 16, Ritualo 16, Alapag 14, Washington 12, Belano 4, Fran 3, Andaya 0, Allado 0.

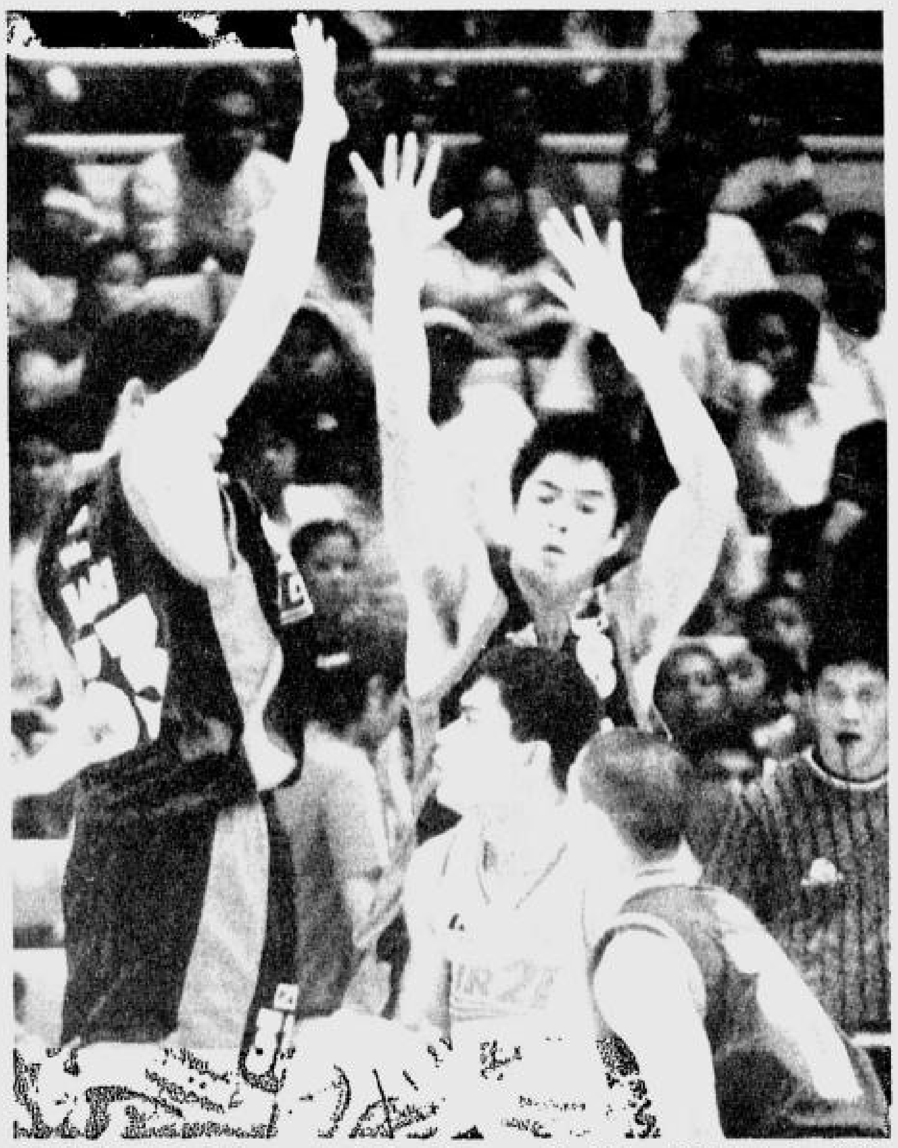
Quarters: 12-25, 34-43, 61-67, 81-81, 88-88, 99-99, 109-103

Second Game

STA. LUCIA 105—Duremdes 20, Aquino 15, Mendoza 15, Isip 12, Espino 12, Williams 6, Bughao 6, Cabagnot 6, Calli 5, Omolon 5, Calimag 3, Gonzales 0.

RED BULL 83—Valnzuela 14, Bagulo 13, Alvarez 10, Villanueva 10, Najorda 9, Ybañez 7, Sharma 6, Pennisi 6, Robinson 4, Bugia 2, Cruz 2, Fonacier 0.

Quarters: 25-20, 51-37, 80-58, 105-83



AIR21'S Ranidel de Ocampo finds himself swamped by Welcoat's Jireh Ibañez (left), JR Reyes (back) and Froilan Baguion Sunday night. The Express won, 110-94. RYAN LIM

Struggling Kings battle Tigers today

GAME TODAY (*Cabagan, Isabela*)
6 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra

SUDDENLY, THE KINGS DON'T LOOK LIKE royalty anymore.

After three victories to open the Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup, Barangay Ginebra has lost two straight and its aura of invincibility during the preseason.

An out-of-town break like this when it faces a team rated low in previews is certainly a welcome development for Ginebra. But Coca-Cola has shown some signs of life lately, and—despite coming off a loss—has proven that it won't simply roll over against tougher foes.

The two squads, whose rosters are on opposite ends of the star spectrum, clash today at 6 p.m. at the Josefina T. Albano Sports and Cultural Center in Cabagan, Isabela, hoping to get back to the winning track.

The Kings (3-2) are favored over the Tigers (2-2) in this one.

Parading a lineup led by Erik Menk (19.0 ppg, 9.8 rpg, 2.4 apg), Rudy Hatfield (13.2 ppg, 14.4 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.2 spg) and Mark Caguioa (22.2 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 4.2 apg), and backed by the likes of Jayjay Helterbrand, Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril, Johnny Abarrientos and Andy Seigle, the Kings were expected to tear through the field this season.

But losses to Red Bull and San Miguel have punctured their reputation and given hope to the likes of Coca-Cola.

The Tigers aim for that with a lineup stripped of big names by a blockbuster offseason trade that benefited the team it is facing today.

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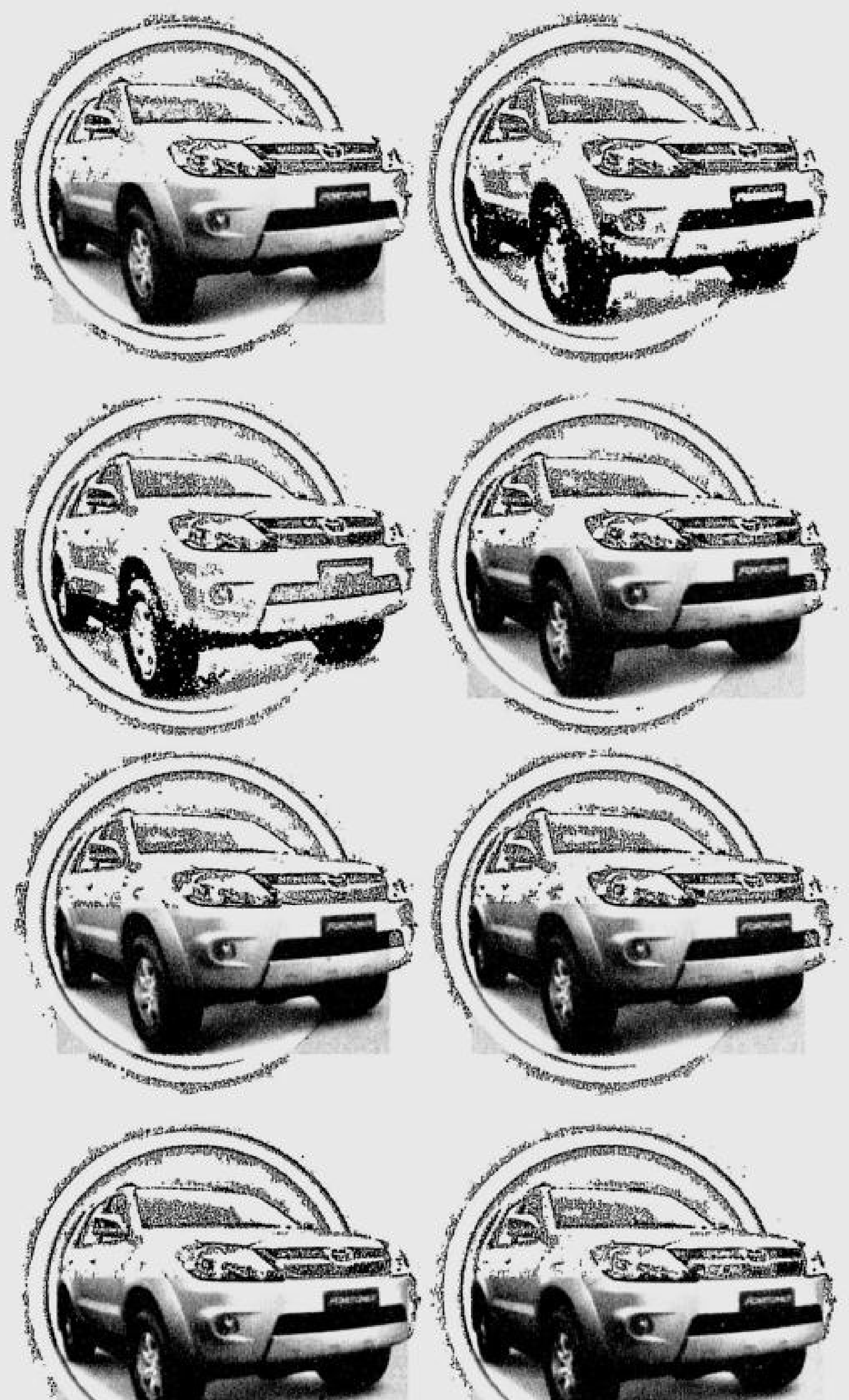

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Metro taxi operators drop P15 fare hike bid, cite stable prices of oil

But rollback in taxi fees ruled out, says transport group exec

By Riza T. Olchondra

TAXI OPERATORS HAVE WITHdrawn their petition with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for a fare adjustment as oil prices continue to stabilize.

The Philippine National Taxi Operators Association (PNTOA) and Association of Taxi Operators in Metro Manila (ATOMM) had asked the LTFRB last year to allow them to add P15 to their passengers' total fare.

Operators said at that time that this would be preferable to raising the flag-down rate which would require them to calibrate their taxi meters.

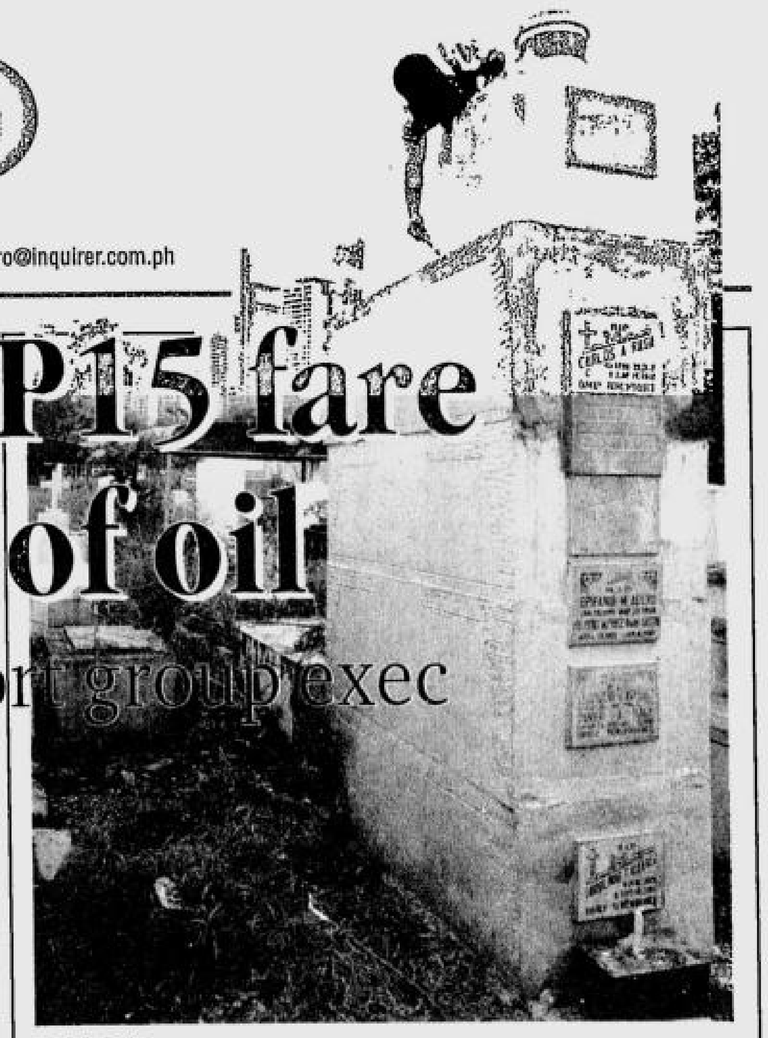
During their meeting on Wednesday with newly appointed LTFRB chairperson Thompson Lantion, PNTOA president Jesus Suntay and ATOMM president Leonora Naval said their respective groups have agreed to maintain their flag-down rate of P30. They also informed him of their decision to withdraw their petition for a P15 fare hike.

The move will cover not only taxi operators in Metro Manila but those in other areas like Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, Bulacan, Iloilo and certain parts of Mindanao and Luzon.

Suntay told reporters that the move was also the operators' way of welcoming the change in LTFRB leadership. Lantion replaced Ma. Elena Bautista who was appointed transportation department undersecretary.

Naval, meanwhile; said the only reason for the withdrawal of their fare-increase petition was the continuing decrease in oil prices. But she added that Lantion's appointment was welcome news to the agency because he is seen as a negotiator who keeps an open line with transport groups.

Asked whether or not taxi operators can implement a fare rollback, Naval ruled this out, saying they have not increased their rates since 2004 despite the series of oil price increases.



ALL SET
A man spruces up one of several tombs at South Cemetery in Makati City, just a few days before All Saints' Day when Filipinos all over the country are expected to visit their departed loved ones in cemeteries.
RYAN LIM

MMDA to field aides for cemetery watch; village patrol intensified

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) will deploy around 500 traffic enforcers in areas near cemeteries next week.

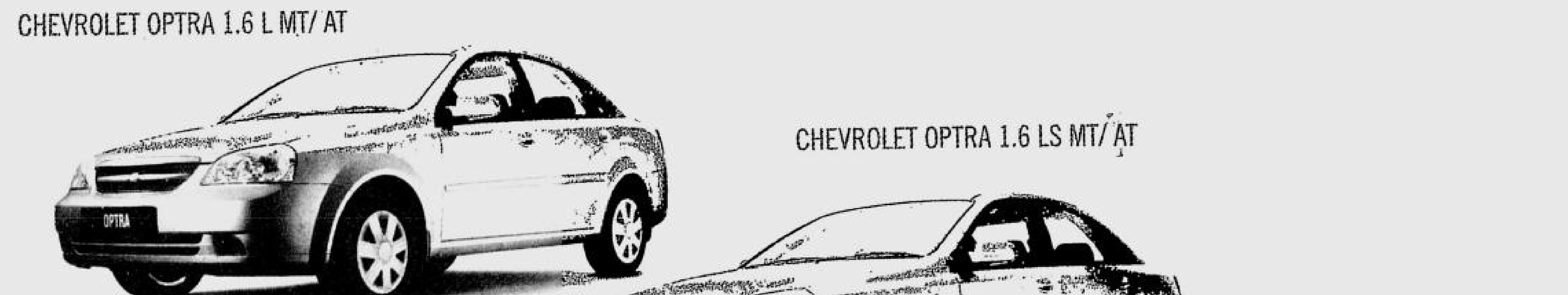
"We will deploy them to areas leading to cemeteries, where we do not have personnel on a regular day. We expect that there will be no traffic on major roads so we will transfer the people deployed there to roads leading to cemeteries," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, executive director of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center.

The deployment would begin on Tuesday, Oct. 31, and end on Nov. 2, Thursday.

Areas that will be covered are those leading to major cemeteries in Metro Manila, including Manila North Cemetery in Manila; Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Himlayang Pilipino and La Loma Cemetery in Quezon City; Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina; and cemeteries in Navotas, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Makati and Parañaque.

Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Makati police chief, said 350 police officers would be deployed to the Makati Catholic Cemetery, Makati Cemetery and Manila South Cemetery.

In the southern part of Metro Manila, more than 800 policemen will be fielded in 29 cemeteries starting on Monday. Police cars will also be deployed to patrol the more than 100 subdivisions and villages in the area, said Southern Police District chief Ricardo Padilla.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62% of policemen live in poverty, says DILG

By Norman Bordadora

SIX OUT OF 10 POLICEMEN LIVE in poverty, with most of them living in shanties because of their meager salaries, according to Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

Citing department records, Puno said 62 percent of the country's 120,000 policemen live below the poverty line.

"Contrary to the perception that many cops have enriched themselves because of their positions, most of them live in shanties," he added.

According to Department of Interior and Local Government figures, an estimated 74,000 policemen cannot even send their children to school.

Puno has thrown his support behind Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon who has vowed to make housing for policemen the flagship project during his term.

"Our policemen risk their lives each day to keep our homes and streets safe and yet most of them cannot even lead decent lives," Puno said.

According to him, Northern Mindanao has the most number of homeless policemen at 68 percent. It is followed by the Cordillera Administrative Region with 66 percent; Central Visayas, 66 percent; Eastern Visayas, 62 percent; and Metro Manila, 62 percent.

"Helping them own a home would go a long way in improving their plight and keeping them away from the temptation of resorting to corrupt acts to make ends meet," Puno said.

Puno said housing programs for policemen have been made available through the Pulis Kalinga Housing Project, the most recent of which was the 6.2-hectare project site in Camp Macabulos, Tarlac that offers 200 houses for PNP personnel based in Tarlac province and other areas.

GMA's unpopularity phenomenal

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER PRESIDENT ESTRADA HAS denounced the Armed Forces leadership for detaining a Marine lieutenant who distributed copies of his documentary "Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa" to his fellow Marines.

But the detention of lst Lt. Artemio Raymundo goes beyond the charge of insubordination and talking back to his commanding officer. It was to show the Marine officers and rank and file that their political ideas should be kept to themselves and not discussed in the open.

My Philippine Marine Corps sources say most enlisted men are vocal about their displeasure with their commander-in-chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo. When they see her on television, many of them make unsavory remarks. Palace spies among the Marines have apparently reported this kind of behavior. A drastic measure had to be taken, like making an example of Lt. Raymundo.

During the Makati City Hall crisis when Mayor Jejomar Binay would not budge after being suspended by Malacanang, some Marine enlisted men wanted to march to Makati to show their support for the mayor but were prevailed upon to stay put. It should be noted that two Marines officers, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Col. Alexander Balutan, denounced the alleged irregularities of the Arroyo camp in the 2004 presidential election. Many Marines share the pair's sentiments. If there's a potential hot spot in the Armed Forces, it's in the elite Marine Corps. Ms Arroyo has a big problem indeed.

***

The President's rating in the latest Ibon survey has increased from negative 68.7 percent to negative 54.9 percent. Malacañang can't crow about the survey results. It's still negative.

The President's unpopularity is phenomenal. The only other president who can surpass it is Ferdinand Marcos whose reason for being unpopular was his wife Imelda. I wonder what's causing GMA's unprecedented unpopularity.

***

The President was reportedly aghast over Metro Manila's smog that she called for more greening projects in the country.

As she was saying so, thousands of trees were being cut down by illegal loggers in the Sierra Madre mountain range in Luzon and in the forests of Baganga, Davao Oriental.

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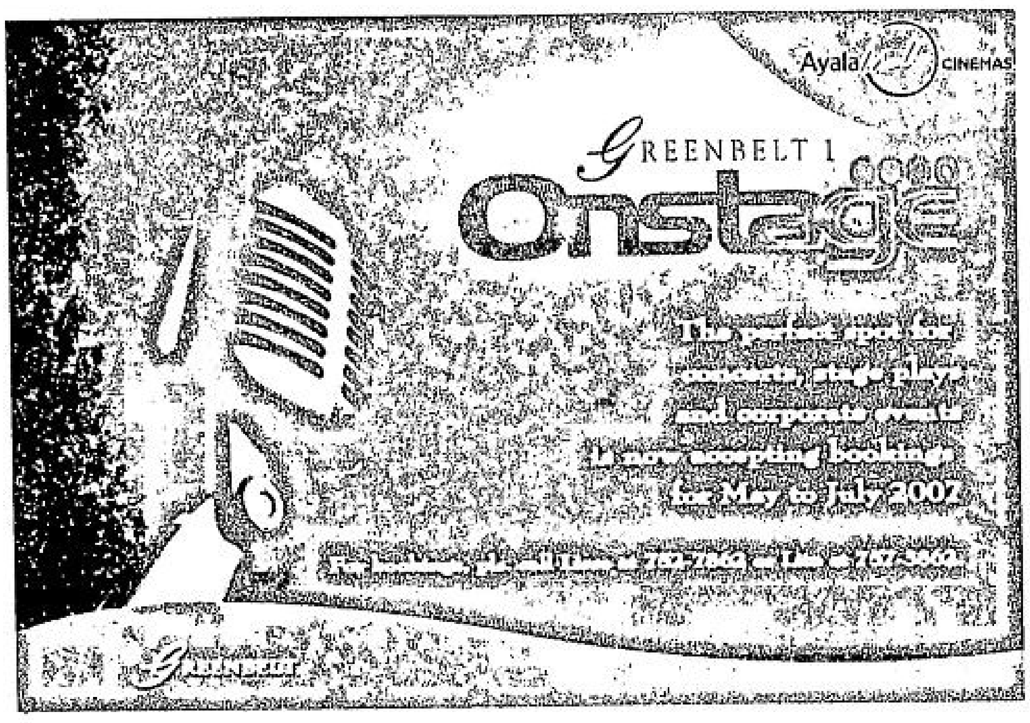
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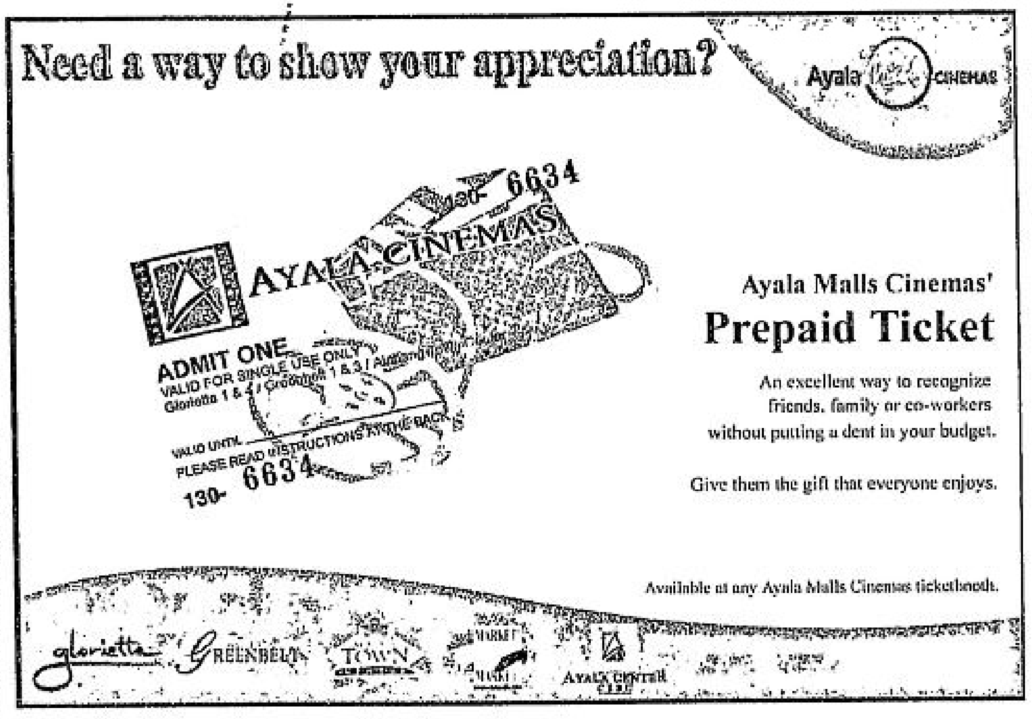
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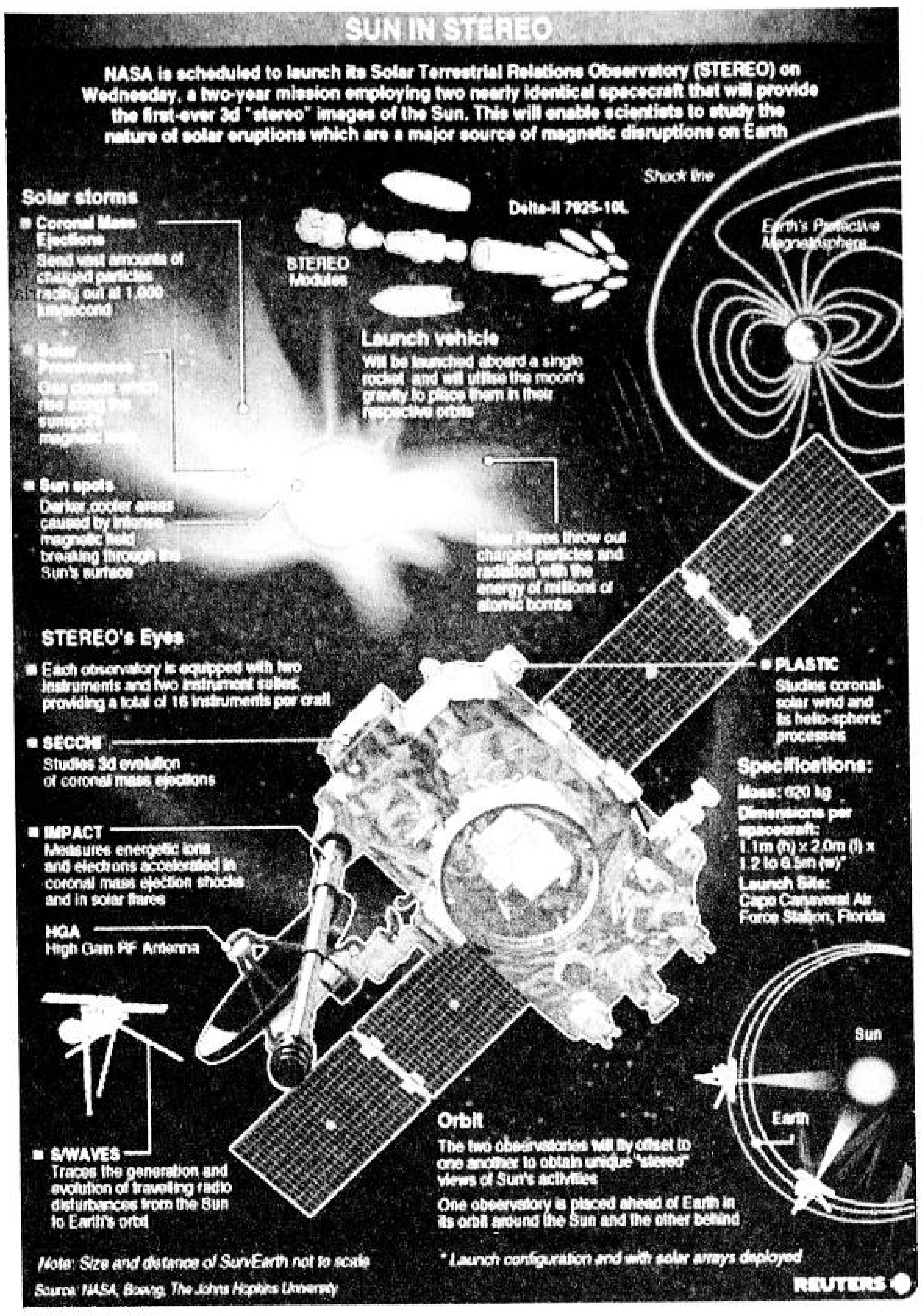
SUN IN STEREO
NASA is scheduled to launch its Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) on Wednesday, a two-year mission employing two nearly identical spacecraft that will provide the first-ever 3d "stereo" images of the Sun. This will enable scientists to study the nature of solar eruptions which are a major source of magnetic disruptions on Earth
Solar storms
Coronal Mass Ejections
Send vast amounts of charged particles racing out at 1,000 km/second
Sun spots
Darker, cooler areas caused by intense magnetic field breaking through the Sun's surface
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STEREO Modules
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Will be launched aboard a single rocket, and will utilise the moon's gravity to place them in their respective orbits
STEREO's Eyes
Each observatory is equipped with two instruments and two instrument suites, providing a total of 16 instruments per craft
SECCHI
Studies 3d evolution of coronal mass ejections
IMPACT
Measures energetic ions and electrons accelerated in coronal mass ejection shocks and in solar flares
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High Gain RF Antenna
S/WAVES
Traces the generation and evolution of traveling radio disturbances from the Sun to Earth's orbit
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Earth
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Source: NASA, Boeing, The Johns Hopkins University
REUTERS

US blames Iran, Syria for violence in Iraq

BAGHDAD—AMERICA'S CIVILIAN and military leaders in Iraq linked Iran and Syria with al-Qaida on Tuesday as forces trying to tear the country apart and prevent the United States from establishing a stable democracy.

The comments from ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and General George Casey were among the strongest US officials have leveled against Iraq's two neighbors over alleged support for armed groups behind much of the bloodshed.

Khalilzad depicted the struggle to build a united, democratic Iraq as "the defining challenge of our era" and said it would shape the future of the Middle East and global security.

"Those forces that constitute the extremist camp including not only al-Qaida but Iran and Syria are at work to keep us and the Iraqis from succeeding," Khalilzad told a rare joint news conference with Casey, two weeks before US Congressional elections.

"They fear Iraq's success. They want to undermine our resolve by imposing costs on us in terms of prolonging the conflict, imposing casualties and creating the perception that Iraq cannot be stabilized," Khalilzad said.

Al-Qaida and Iraq's "foreign rivals" were trying to tear the Iraqi people apart along sectarian lines, Khalilzad said, naming Iran and Syria as countries that "cynically support rival groups involved in the violence." Iran, which has close religious ties to Iraq's majority Shiite population, and Syria, largely Sunni Muslim, both deny supporting armed groups in Iraq.

Khalilzad called the news conference to answer mounting questions in the United States about US strategy in Iraq ahead of elections on Nov. 7 that opinion polls suggest could cost President George W. Bush's Republicans control of Congress.

Khalilzad said the United States had asked Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan to encourage Sunni insurgent groups to end the violence and join the political process.

"These countries have promised to be helpful," he said.

Casey called both Syria and Iran "decidedly unhelpful." Violence in Iraq has spiralled this year in a frenzy of sectarian killings that Casey and Khalilzad blamed on al-Qaida, insurgents, rival militias and death squads. *Reuters*

Venezuela gives up bid for UN seat

LA PAZ—VENEZUELA HAS ASKED its close ally Bolivia to run in its place for Latin America's open spot on the UN Security Council, Bolivia's president said Tuesday in a surprising announcement a day before the UN was to resume voting for the seat.

US critic Venezuela has battled for the seat against US-backed Guatemala but neither country has been able to win the two-thirds majority needed to win the spot after three-dozen polls at the UN General Assembly.

Caracas had refused to drop out despite trailing Guatemala in all but one the votes.

"Comrade (Venezuelan President Hugo) Chavez says that to find a consensus he leaves the candidacy to Bolivia," Bolivian President Evo Morales said at a ceremony with small business owners in the La Paz suburb of El Alto.

"We are candidates for the Security Council," Morales, one of Chavez's closest allies and a fellow US critic, said. "Hopefully we will obtain a consensus." "Last night, Venezuela's ambassador called me first. Then commander Chavez called me and told me that since he was unable to get two-thirds for the Security Council," Caracas was giving up its candidacy for Bolivia, he said.

The 192-member General Assembly was scheduled to resume voting on Latin America's non-permanent, open seat on Wednesday.

The United States, which has campaigned for Guatemala, fears that the leftist Chavez government would use the seat to be disruptive, routinely oppose US measures and openly attack the United States.

Chavez used an address to the UN General Assembly last month to call US President George W. Bush the "devil" and said the podium still "smelled of sulphur" a day after the US leader had used it.

Asked about Bolivia's candidacy, a US State Department official said Washington's position would remain the same as long as the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) has not announced a third candidate. *AFP*

Nasa to launch 3-D mission to study sun

WASHINGTON—NASA PLANS to launch Wednesday a 3-D mission to study the sun, using twin satellites in mirror orbits to trace the fiery star's streams of energy and matter to Earth.

"We are at the dawning of a new age of solar observations," Russ Howard of the Naval Research Laboratory said at a Nasa news conference.

The two-year Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (Stereo) mission will be the first to view the sun from two separate vantage points outside Earth's orbit.

The nearly identical twin spacecraft will act like a pair of human eyes, each picking up data that is correlated, with data from observatories on the ground and in low-Earth orbit, into a third-dimension vision of the Sun and its influences.

"We're going to be viewing things in a new dimension for us," Howard said.

The Stereo solar observatories are scheduled to launch Wednesday aboard a Boeing rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

Weather forecasters predicted good conditions for the 15-minute launch window which opens at 8:38 p.m.

Howard said Stereo also was unique because it will see "broadside" the entire relationship between the sun and Earth, some 93 million miles (150 million km) apart.

And, he said, "for the first time we will be able to measure optically what the other instruments on Stereo ... are seeing in their instruments." The international mission has immediate relevance for the technologically advanced lives of the 21st century, he said.

Scientists hope the mission will glean insight into solar activities such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), the most violent explosions in our solar system. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Indon bridge collapses; 5 killed

JAKARTA—A footbridge packed with tourists broke at a mountainous resort on Java island Wednesday, killing five people and injuring 29 after they plunged into a rocky riverbed, police and tourist officials said. The victims were evacuated to three nearby hospitals, said Surono, an employee at the Baturaden resort in Central Java province, adding that they fell more than 20 meters after one of the steel cables holding the small bridge snapped. Local police chief Emron Putra Agung said five people were killed and 29 injured. *AP*

East Timor airport closed

DILI—East Timor's international airport was closed Wednesday after two men were killed in nearby clashes between rival gangs in the country's capital, airport and hospital officials said. The shootings came amid escalating violence in recent days in which four people have been killed and more than 50 wounded, said Antonio Caleres, director of East Timor's main hospital. East Timor has been plagued by instability since an outbreak of violence left at least 33 dead and drove 155,000 people from their homes in April and May, following the dismissal by the government of one third of the military. The recent spate of violence began Sunday when two men were stabbed to death near a church during evening prayers. *AP*

AP fotog abducted, freed in Gaza

GAZA CITY—A Spanish photographer for the Associated Press news agency was released by his kidnappers in the Gaza Strip late on Tuesday after less than a day in captivity. Emilio Morenatti, 37, the latest of a string of westerners to be abducted in the territory, appeared smiling and in good shape at the Gaza City headquarters of Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas. "I am doing very well," he told journalists. The photojournalist had been seized by four masked and armed men as he left his residence in the center of Gaza City early on Tuesday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the abduction. *AFP*

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BAGHDAD—Iraqi special forces backed by US air strikes killed five people and wounded at least six in a Shiite district of Baghdad, witnesses said, in a raid the US military said was targeted at a death squad commander. The overnight raid was launched in the sprawling Sadr City, a stronghold of the Mehdi Army militia loyal to firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. "Special Iraqi Army forces, supported by Coalition advisers, conducted a raid authorized by the government of Iraq ... in Sadr City, Baghdad to capture a top illegal armed group commander directing widespread death-squad activity throughout eastern Baghdad," the US military said in a statement. It said the Iraqi forces came under fire and called in US air support. *Reuters*

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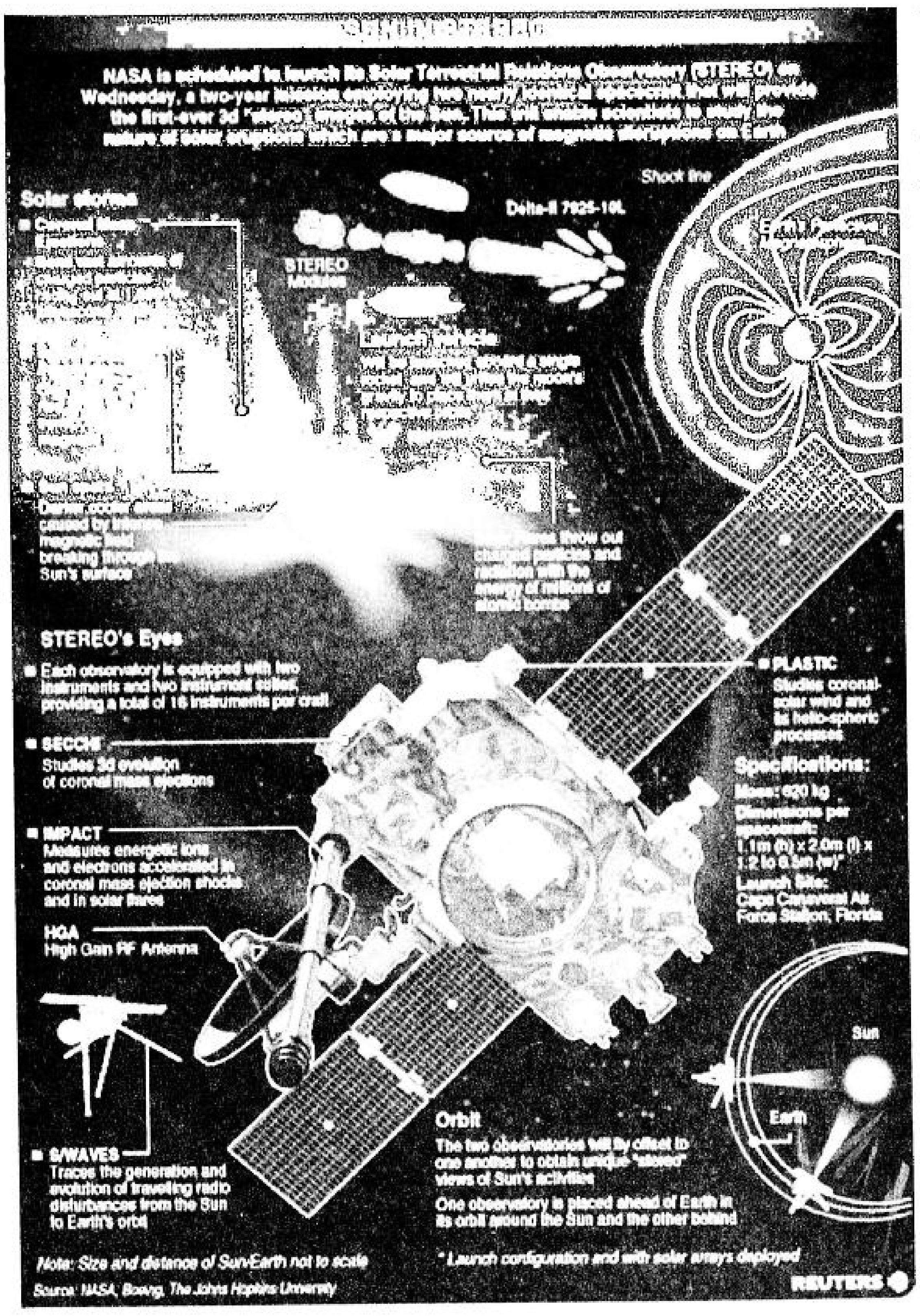
NASA is scheduled to launch its Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) on Wednesday, a two-year mission employing two nearly identical spacecraft that will provide the first-ever 3d "stereo" images of the Sun. This will enable scientists to study the nature of solar eruptions which are a major source of magnetic disruptions on Earth
Shock line
Delta-II 7925-10L
STEREO Modules
Solar storms
Sun's surface
throw out charged particles and radiation with the energy of millions of atomic bombs
STEREO's Eyes
Each observatory is equipped with two instruments and two instrument suites, providing a total of 16 instruments per craft
SECCHI
Studies 3d evolution of coronal mass ejections
IMPACT
Measures energetic ions and electrons accelerated in coronal mass ejection shocks and in solar flares
HGA
High Gain RF Antenna
S/WAVES
Traces the generation and evolution of traveling radio disturbances from the Sun to Earth's orbit
PLASTIC
Studies coronal-solar wind and its helio-spheric processes
Specifications:
Mass: 620 kg
Dimensions per spacecraft: 1.1m (h) x 2.0m (l) x 1.2 to 6.5m (w)*
Launch Site: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida
Orbit
The two observatories will fly offset to one another to obtain unique "stereo" views of Sun's activities
One observatory is placed ahead of Earth in its orbit around the Sun and the other behind
Sun
Earth
* Launch configuration and with solar arrays deployed
REUTERS

Note: Size and distance of Sun/Earth not to scale

Source: NASA, Boeing, The Johns Hopkins University

US blames Iran, Syria for violence in Iraq

BAGHDAD—AMERICA'S CIVILIAN and military leaders in Iraq linked Iran and Syria with al-Qaida on Tuesday as forces trying to tear the country apart and prevent the United States from establishing a stable democracy.

The comments from ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and General George Casey were among the strongest US officials have leveled against Iraq's two neighbors over alleged support for armed groups behind much of the bloodshed.

Khalilzad depicted the struggle to build a united, democratic Iraq as "the defining challenge of our era" and said it would shape the future of the Middle East and global security.

"Those forces that constitute the extremist camp including not only al-Qaida but Iran and Syria are at work to keep us and the Iraqis from succeeding," Khalilzad told a rare joint news conference with Casey, two weeks before US Congressional elections.

"They fear Iraq's success. They want to undermine our resolve by imposing costs on us in terms of prolonging the conflict, imposing casualties and creating the perception that Iraq cannot be stabilized," Khalilzad said.

Al-Qaida and Iraq's "foreign rivals" were trying to tear the Iraqi people apart along sectarian lines, Khalilzad said, naming Iran and Syria as countries that "cynically support rival groups involved in the violence." Iran, which has close religious ties to Iraq's majority Shiite population, and Syria, largely Sunni Muslim, both deny supporting armed groups in Iraq.

Khalilzad called the news conference to answer mounting questions in the United States about US strategy in Iraq ahead of elections on Nov. 7 that opinion polls suggest could cost President George W. Bush's Republicans control of Congress.

Khalilzad said the United States had asked Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan to encourage Sunni insurgent groups to end the violence and join the political process.

"These countries have promised to be helpful," he said.

Casey called both Syria and Iran "decidedly unhelpful." Violence in Iraq has spiralled this year in a frenzy of sectarian killings that Casey and Khalilzad blamed on al-Qaida, insurgents, rival militias and death squads. *Reuters*

Venezuela gives up bid for UN seat

LA PAZ—VENEZUELA HAS ASKED its close ally Bolivia to run in its place for Latin America's open spot on the UN Security Council, Bolivia's president said Tuesday in a surprising announcement a day before the UN was to resume voting for the seat.

US critic Venezuela has battled for the seat against US-backed Guatemala but neither country has been able to win the two-thirds majority needed to win the spot after three-dozen polls at the UN General Assembly.

Caracas had refused to drop out despite trailing Guatemala in all but one the votes.

"Comrade (Venezuelan President Hugo) Chavez says that to find a consensus he leaves the candidacy to Bolivia," Bolivian President Evo Morales said at a ceremony with small business owners in the La Paz suburb of El Alto.

"We are candidates for the Security Council," Morales, one of Chavez's closest allies and a fellow US critic, said. "Hopefully we will obtain a consensus." "Last night, Venezuela's ambassador called me first. Then commander Chavez called me and told me that since he was unable to get two-thirds for the Security Council," Caracas was giving up its candidacy for Bolivia, he said.

The 192-member General Assembly was scheduled to resume voting on Latin America's non-permanent, open seat on Wednesday.

The United States, which has campaigned for Guatemala, fears that the leftist Chavez government would use the seat to be disruptive, routinely oppose US measures and openly attack the United States.

Chavez used an address to the UN General Assembly last month to call US President George W. Bush the "devil" and said the podium still "smelled of sulphur" a day after the US leader had used it.

Asked about Bolivia's candidacy, a US State Department official said Washington's position would remain the same as long as the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) has not announced a third candidate. *AFP*

Nasa to launch 3-D mission to study sun

WASHINGTON—NASA PLANS to launch Wednesday a 3-D mission to study the sun, using twin satellites in mirror orbits to trace the fiery star's streams of energy and matter to Earth.

"We are at the dawning of a new age of solar observations," Russ Howard of the Naval Research Laboratory said at a Nasa news conference.

The two-year Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (Stereo) mission will be the first to view the sun from two separate vantage points outside Earth's orbit.

The nearly identical twin spacecraft will act like a pair of human eyes, each picking up data that is correlated, with data from observatories on the ground and in low-Earth orbit, into a third-dimension vision of the Sun and its influences.

"We're going to be viewing things in a new dimension for us," Howard said.

The Stereo solar observatories are scheduled to launch Wednesday aboard a Boeing rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

Weather forecasters predicted good conditions for the 15-minute launch window which opens at 8:38 p.m.

Howard said Stereo also was unique because it will see "broadside" the entire relationship between the sun and Earth, some 93 million miles (150 million km) apart.

And, he said, "for the first time we will be able to measure optically what the other instruments on Stereo ... are seeing in their instruments." The international mission has immediate relevance for the technologically advanced lives of the 21st century, he said.

Scientists hope the mission will glean insight into solar activities such as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), the most violent explosions in our solar system. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Indon bridge collapses; 5 killed

JAKARTA—A footbridge packed with tourists broke at a mountainous resort on Java island Wednesday, killing five people and injuring 29 after they plunged into a rocky riverbed, police and tourist officials said. The victims were evacuated to three nearby hospitals, said Surono, an employee at the Baturaden resort in Central Java province, adding that they fell more than 20 meters after one of the steel cables holding the small bridge snapped. Local police chief Emron Putra Agung said five people were killed and 29 injured. *AP*

East Timor airport closed

DILI—East Timor's international airport was closed Wednesday after two men were killed in nearby clashes between rival gangs in the country's capital, airport and hospital officials said. The shootings came amid escalating violence in recent days in which four people have been killed and more than 50 wounded, said Antonio Caleres, director of East Timor's main hospital. East Timor has been plagued by instability since an outbreak of violence left at least 33 dead and drove 155,000 people from their homes in April and May, following the dismissal by the government of one third of the military. The recent spate of violence began Sunday when two men were stabbed to death near a church during evening prayers. *AP*

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Ex-cops hunted for Russian journalist's slay

MOSCOW—INVESTIGATORS PROBING THE murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya suspect the involvement of former police officers who served in Chechnya, the Kommersant newspaper said on Wednesday.

Investigators from the interior ministry and prosecutor's office left Moscow "almost en masse" last week for the west Siberian town of Nizhnevartovsk with the aim of questioning former police officers who had served in Chechnya, the paper said.

They suspect that the officers may have taken revenge on the hard-hitting journalist from the Novaya Gazeta newspaper after she named them as being involved in at least one killing of a civilian in Chechnya, Kommersant said.

"It appears a dominant explanation has appeared. Investigators think that former officers from the Nizhnevartovsk police were involved," the paper said.

The execution-style killing of the investigative journalist on Oct. 7 was condemned by human rights groups and Western governments and was seen as a symbol of the problems faced by independent journalists in today's Russia.

President Vladimir Putin has said the culprits must not be allowed to escape punishment, although he has been criticized for playing down Politkovskaya's significance.

Investigators particularly want to find a former police major and a former police lieutenant colonel who are already wanted in connection with crimes in Chechnya, the paper said.

They had failed to find the former officers during their visit and instead had to question relatives and acquaintances of the men as well as relatives of another policeman named by Politkovskaya and currently serving an 11-year prison sentence, the paper said.

AFP

DEMONSTRATORS hold photographs of slain investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya in front of the Sibelius hall in Lahti, Finland during a summit of EU leaders. AP

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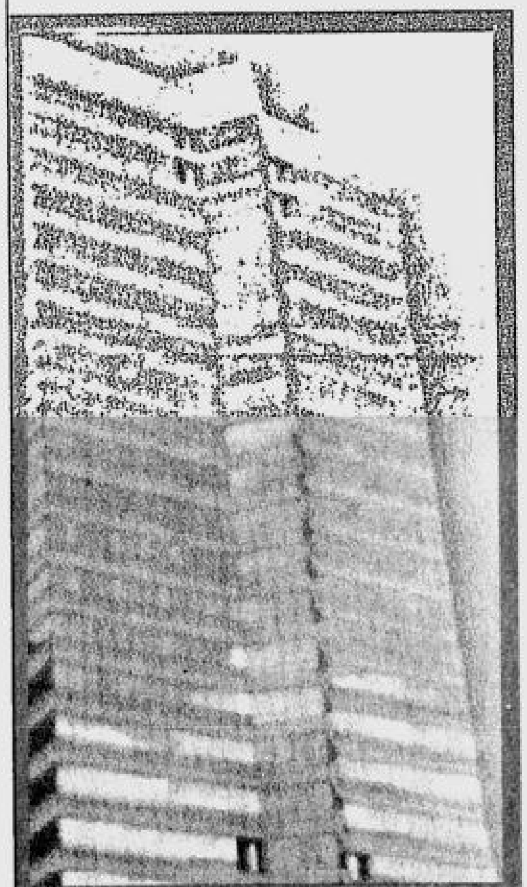

Celebrating three decades of dedicated service

For the last 30 years, the company's heritage has helped Filipinos achieve financial security and peace of mind. Its success is based on a long history of strong leadership, financial stability, sound investments, and innovative products & services. The insurance company has seen a lot of changes in its three decades in the business and credits its strong showing to its rich history.

The company started to offer life and insurance policies to Filipinos as Cardinal Life. It then expanded the scope of its operations nationwide in the 1970s as Pan Philippines Life after Metrobank purchased a significant share of the company. It didn't take long before Pan Philippines Life became one of the leading names in the insurance industry because of its solid reputation, capital investment and the fact that it was part of the Metrobank Group.

But the story doesn't end there. To maximize its reach and service to the Filipino public, Metrobank forged a partnership with another financial giant, the Global AXA Group to form one of the most stable insurance companies to date --- AXA.

According to Irene Andas, AXA's Group Distribution Head who has been with the company for 11 years, Pan Philippines Life's transformation from a local entity to a multinational company which carries the best practices of the Global AXA Group.

With support from the Metrobank Group, the alliance is a formidable one. Two financial powerhouses results in customer satisfaction, as every Metrobank branch in the country is turned into a one-stop-shop for customers' financial needs.

Her colleague Philippe Guzman, IT Department Head and an employee of the company for 14 years, said AXA's global thrust and vision improved the way the company did business: from the way they handled and serviced customers to how they sold their products, AXA's top-of-mind has always been to be the best and provide the best.

This paradigm shift and passion to excel paid off. AXA is the largest in bancassurance in the country, which soon improved its ranking from number 9 to number 4.

Aside from being the first insurance company to offer bancassurance, AXA is also known for its innovative products such as the Best of Breed and HONEY Series to satisfy customers' insurance and even investment needs.

Today, AXA continues to challenge itself by improving its services and operations to assure clients of their security, finances and future.

Philippine Life
MEMBER METROBANK GROUP

Pan Philippines Life employees and Metrobank's financial strength were the keys to the company's solid reputation as an insurance company in the Philippines.

(Standing, left to right:) Reynald I. Carlos, Chief Information Officer; Andrew D. Alcid, President and CEO; Roland L. Marquez, Human Resources Head; (Seated:) Indren S. Naidoo, Chief Finance Officer; and Michael G. Plaxton, Chief Operating Officer.

(Standing, left to right:) Marie Raymundo, Chief Bancassurance Officer; Irene Andas, Head of Group Distribution; and Hamilton McLeod, Chief Agency Officer.

Performance ranking in life insurance industry
FY 2005

2005 Rank	Company	Total Premium Income (Net of Reinsurance) 2004	2005	2005 Market Share	Growth
1	Philippine American Life	12,347,394,344	12,335,423,900	26%	-0 10%
2	Sun Life of Canada	7,568,912,649	8,107,411,969	17%	7.11%
3	Insular Life	6,420,787,268	6,090,798,822	13%	-5 14%
4	Philippine AXA Life	2,994,397,149	4,567,344,617	10%	52 53%
5	Manufacturers Life	2,620,713,712	2,852,713,354	6%	8 85%
6	Pru Life of U.K.	1,882,312,610	2,305,055,978	5%	22 46%
7	Coco Life	1,578,146,327	1,902,306,079	4%	20 54%
8	Ayala Life	1,790,310,824	1,845,370,238	4%	3 08%
9	Great Pacific Life	1,241,661,084	1,023,127,408	2%	-17 60%
10	Generali Pilipinas Life	353,048,536	858,503,537	2%	143 17%
	Others	5,305,654,129	4,662,860,018	10%	-12 12%
	Total Industry	**44,103,338,633**	**46,650,915,920**	**100%**	**5.55%**

Source: Insurance Commission's 2005 Ranking as of 6 July 2006, Insurance Commission's 2004 Ranking

Message

Congratulations to AXA on the celebration of its 30th Anniversary.

The Insurance Commission is dedicated in maintaining high professional standards as it endeavors to provide adequate protection to every Filipino. Despite the challenges, we are confident that through collective efforts we can have a more vibrant, competitive and innovative insurance marketplace.

United with our goals, the Philippine AXA Life has proven its dynamism and fervor in servicing the insurance public. It is my wish that this company will not only have many more anniversaries, but enjoy greater successes in the future.

Evangeline Crisostomo-Escobillo
Insurance Commissioner

1949

Global AXA Group ranked among the world's best

Global AXA Group joined the ranks of the world's influential corporations as it ranked 15th in Fortune Global 500's survey of "The World's Largest Corporations" for 2005. The insurance company was also recognized as the second-largest in the Insurance: Life, Health (Stock) category, as well as second among France's largest corporations.

The Global AXA Group's dedication to financial protection and wealth management also led it to its current fifth-place ranking in Fortune Magazine's "The World's Most Admired Companies" in the Insurance: Life, Health sector.

In the Philippines, the Global AXA Group partnered with another business giant, the Metrobank Group, to form AXA. The AXA Group is comprised of 51.5 million policy holders worldwide and has 72 billion Euros in consolidated revenues and 1,064 billion Euros in assets. The Metrobank Group, on the other hand, has 830 affiliates and branches worldwide, and PhP585 billion in consolidated resources and PhP49 billion in capital funds.

AXA is the fourth largest life insurance company in the Philippines in terms of gross premiums. The group offers a wide range of services and products to meet the increasing needs of its clientele. Its commitment to secure the future of its customers and stakeholders is apparent in AXA's generosity in sharing its financial expertise, exceptional operating performance, and continuous human resource development.

Family receives P1-M death benefit from AXA

AXA vice president George C. Mina handed the P1-M death benefit cheque to Allan Alquiros and his children. Allan's wife Cecilia died of breast cancer in August this year, and the P1-M cheque benefit is from her AXA group insurance policy.

Alquiros' wife, Cecilia, was an employee of Pag-ibig Fund. Through the Home Development Mutual Fund–Employee Provident Fund (HDMF-EPP), AXA is able to grant beneficiaries of Pag-ibig employees as much as P1M in death benefits through its group life insurance program, which took effect in June 2006.

(left to right) Jaime A. Fabiaña Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Romero Federico S. Quimbo – President and CEO of Pag-Ibig Fund, Aila Celina & Alfon Ace Alquiros (children), Allan Alquiros (husband), George C. Mina - VP of AXA, Irene M. Andas SAVP & group division head of AXA.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Carpenter hammers Tigers /A24

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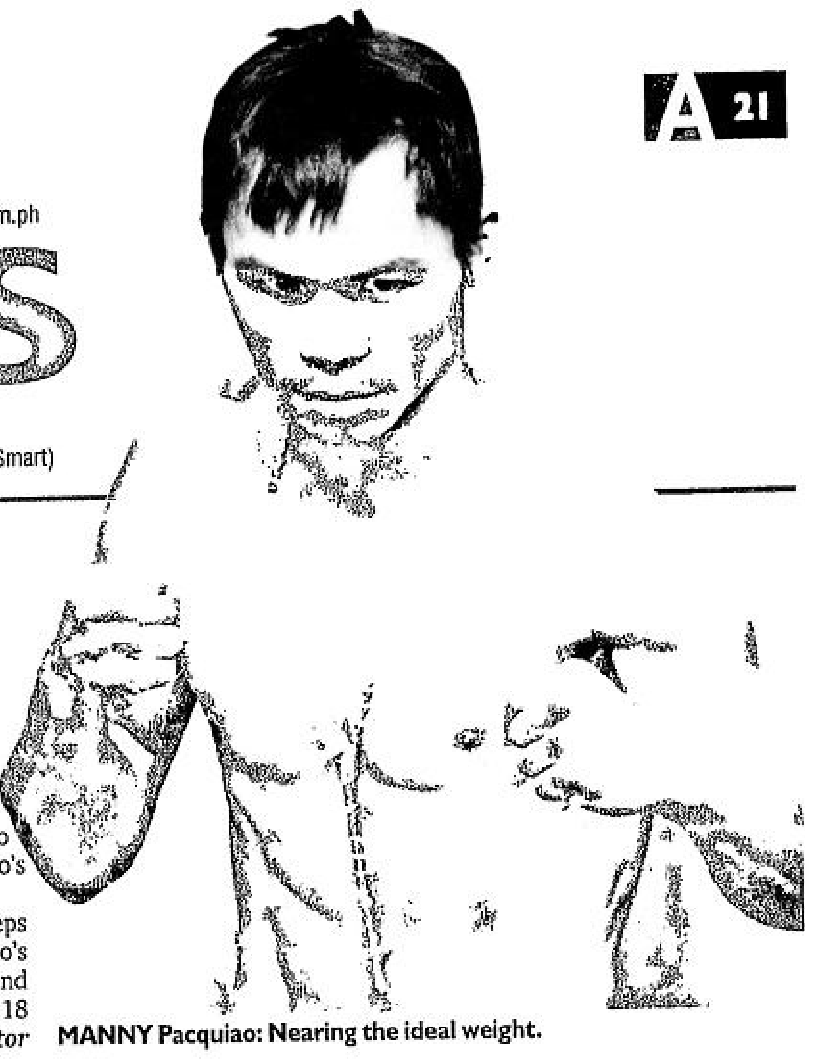
SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Pacquiao down to 136

Weighs in with shirt and shoes on–Roach



MANNY Pacquiao: Nearing the ideal weight.

FILIPINO BOXING SUPERSTAR MANNY Pacquiao tipped the scales at 138.75 lb yesterday during a World Boxing Council-mandated 30-day weigh-in supervised by WBC representative Rudy Tellez at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, California.

Pacquiao went up the scales with his shirt and shoes on although there seems to be no real concern about his weight compared with his nemesis Erik Morales who came in at 142 lb at a similar weigh-in recently.

"He was on the scales wearing a shirt and his shoes—his real weight is about 136," said Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach in an interview with Fightnews.

There was no mention if the weigh-in was held before or after Pacquiao's workout at Wild Card.

If the weigh-in was held after a rigid workout, then it was safe to say his weight is now down to around 136 lb as suggested by Roach.

Pacquiao and Morales will clash for the third time in a super featherweight showdown dubbed the "Grand Finale" on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The weight limit for the super featherweight bout is 130 lb.

While Morales came in a pound below what was allowed by the WBC rules during his weigh-in, experts point out that the Mexican star has now been on a weight-reduction regimen for more than two months, and concerns have been raised as to how much his body can take to get down to the required weight.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao's close associate Rex 'Wakee' Salud has requested the media to concentrate on writing about the Filipino's fight preparation.

Salud said it is important that Manny keeps his focus, adding the question of Pacquiao's relationship with Golden Boy Promotions and Top Rank will be settled after the Nov. 18 fight. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Baseball needs to raise own fund–PSC

By June Navarro

THE POSSIBILITY OF BASEBALL BEING left out of the Philippine delegation to the Asian Games looms larger every day.

RAMIREZ

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez made it clear yesterday that the delegation's contingency fund will not be spent for baseball if Philippine Amateur Baseball Association officials fail to raise the P2.4 million needed for their Asiad stint.

The participation of the only team sport in the 351-man national team is not included in the P30-million budget the PSC has earmarked for athletes, coaches and officials going to the Doha meet on Dec. 1-15.

Ramirez, as the RP delegation's Chef de Mission, stressed that the contingency budget coming from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation is reserved solely for emergency purposes.

"We will not leave without the contingency fund but there's no way it can be used to take care of the expenses of the baseball team," said Ramirez. "We've already agreed that they (baseball officials) will shoulder their expenses for the Asian Games."

Ramirez said Paba officials have yet to come up with the payment for the plane tickets of the 22-man team, which includes 18 athletes and three coaches. The deadline for payment is set today.

While billeting and accommodation in the Games Village are free, Paba president Hector Navasero will have to dig into his own pockets to subsidize the allowances of his team in the absence of private sponsors.

As of yesterday, baseball has yet to attract a sponsor to handle its expenses, Ramirez said.

"We can't do anything about it. It was a gentleman's agreement when baseball promised to raise funds of its own.

"As far as the PSC is concerned, it's not our problem anymore. It's now the concern of the POC (Philippine Olympic Committee)," he added.

Ramirez neither confirmed nor denied the possibility that baseball would be stricken out of the RP delegation and addressed the responsibility of deciding the fate of baseball to the POC.

POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros said Navasero and POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco had a stand-by agreement if all efforts to come up with the needed funding go to naught. Hontiveros said he wasn't privy to the negotiations, however.

The national clouters are expected to leave with the first batch of athletes on Nov. 26.

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RP opens Eisenhower Cup bid

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA—THE Philippine team of Marvin Dumandan, Jay Bayron and Michael Bibat plunge into action against the world's best amateurs in the Eisenhower Cup beginning Thursday.

It is the final international tuneup before the Asian Games for the Filipinos, who are looking to improve on the RP ladies' woeful finish in last week's Espirito Santo Trophy here.

The United States remains the team to beat in the strong 70-team field. The Americans, who ran away with the crown in the rain-shortened 2004 edition of the biennial event in Puerto Rico, are going for a fourth straight title.

Jonathan Moore, 21, who won the American national collegiate title this year, and Chris Kirk, 21, who finished runner-up in the event, form the 1-2 US punch. The third member of the American squad in the three-to-play, two-to-count format is Trip Kuehne, 34.

Spain, the runner-up in 2004, is expected to challenge the US anew mainly due to Pablo Martin, 20, touted as the most talented young Spaniard to emerge since Sergio Garcia.

A number of crack players, who also gained first-hand knowledge of the De Zalze and Stellenbosch golf clubs during the South African Amateurs last March, are also seeing action,including Welshman Nigel Edwards, who topped the final of the SA event.

Tañamor to appeal suspension

By Dennis U. Eroa

TAÑAMOR

DESPITE BEING DROPPED FROM THE roster by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, Athens Olympian Harry Tañamor isn't losing hope that he'll soon be back in good graces with the sport's ruling body and make it to the 15th Asian Games in December in Doha, Qatar.

A day after he was axed from the RP team bound for the Asiad due to lack of discipline, Tañamor, 27, said he's ready to resume training at the Teacher's Camp in Baguio City.

"I'm going to rejoin the national team tomorrow (Thursday) in Baguio," said Tañamor, who will appeal his case to ABAP president Manny T. Lopez.

Tañamor said he's going to seek the help of national head coach Patricio Gaspi, who is handling the Philippine team competing in the Tammer Cup in Tampere, Finland.

Lopez said it is the right of Tañamor to appeal his case. "I need to consult my coaches and other officials before making a decision," said Lopez. "At the moment, there's no change in ABAP's decision to replace him."

4 GMs banner inter-province chess today

THE COUNTRY'S FOUR GRANDMASTERS will head different teams in the 2006 National Inter-Province chess team and Governor Oscar Moreno Cup individual chess championship open today at the Atrium of the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City.

GM Eugene Torre will banner the Misamis Occidental team, GM Mark Paragua will power Agusan del Sur, GM Joey Antonio will lead defending champion Tagaytay City while GM Nelson Mariano will spearhead Zambales.

Antonio will draw support from Edmundo Gatus, Truman Hernaez, Allan Macala and Ilann Perez. Tagaytay City is backed by NCFP secretary-general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr.

Misamis Occidental is also composed of reigning PARA Games triple gold medalist Henry Lopez, Jayson Salubre of De La Salle University, Mardonio Fuentes and team manager and former Cebu standout Rey C. Urbiztondo, also the Region X Coordinator of the National Chess federation of the Philippines. Coach is Dr. Reynaldo Feliciano.

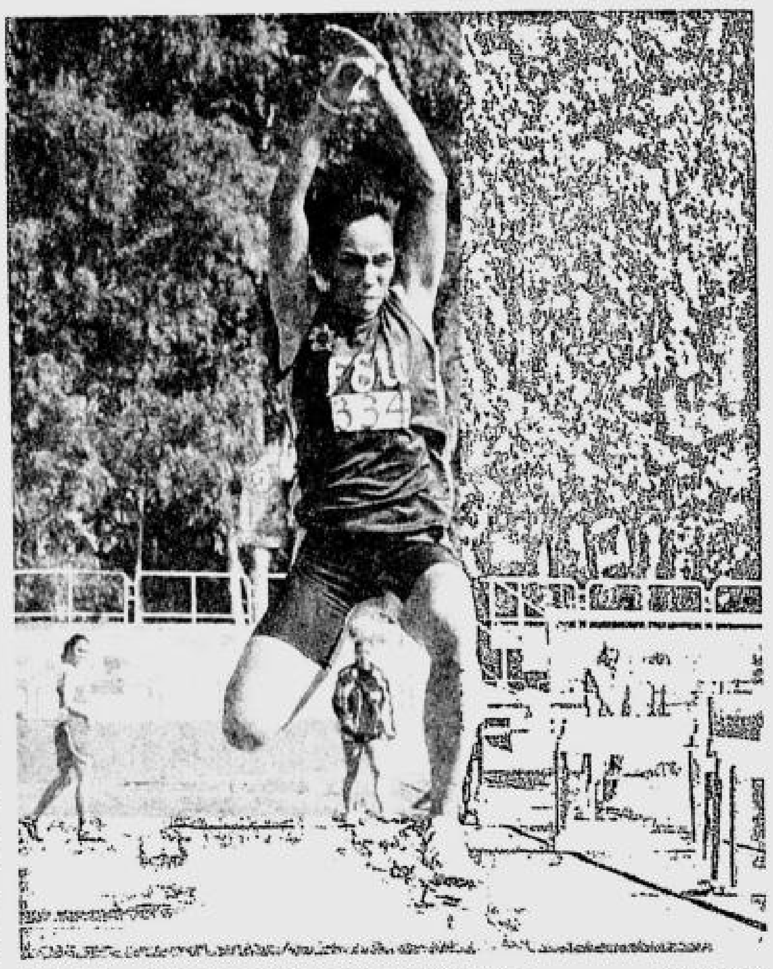
Paragua's teammates are Christian Arroyo, Samson Lim, Rainier Labay and Arnold Dableo. Coach is engineer Ricardo Paragua.

Mariano, the former Asian junior champion, is backstopped by Merben Roque, Nelson Villanueva, Edsel Montoya and playing coach Janette Arnuco.

For details, contact tournament chair Willie Abalos at 0920-4871453.

Other teams that have confirmed their participation are Cagayan de Oro City, Butuan City, Builders Davao City, Tagoloan Misamis Oriental, El Salvador Misamis Oriental, Balingasag Misamis Oriental, Lanao Del Norte, Iligan City, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Gingoog City, Negros Oriental, Samal Island Davao, Bukidnon State College, Toledo City, Bohol, General Santos City, Bukidnon, Malaybalay, Sultan Kudarat, Cebu, Palawan, Laguna, Caloocan City, Bataan, Cavite, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga, Lucena City and Laoag City.

NCFP president Cong. Butch Pichay Jr., Tolentino Jr., and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar S. Moreno will do the ceremonial moves starting at 10:30 a.m. *Marlon Bernardino*



FEU's Marriz Contoner pulls off her golden leap. ANDY ALVAREZ

Action-hungry Archers shine in Uni-Games

By Cedelf P. Tupas and Chritian Irl Tan

BACOLOD CITY—DE LA SALLE IS SLOWLY finding redemption in the University Games here.

Suspended by the UAAP in the current season, the Archers claimed the first team title of the sportsfest courtesy of the women's chess squad which shared the limelight with men's champion West Negros College.

Except for an 84-75 setback at the hands of the Ateneo de Manila University in women's basketball yesterday, De La Salle, fielding a total of 11 teams here, continued to be a force in the week-long games with victories in both divisions of volleyball and women's football.

On a day when Metro Manila teams struck gold in athletics, the La Salle male spikers edged Adamson, 17-25, 25-22, 27-25, 24-26, 15-13, for their third straight victory, before the women's squad walloped Silliman University, 25-8, 25-8, 25-13, for their second win in as many games.

At the USLS pitch, the La Salle lady booters of coach Hans Smit whitewashed Foundation University, 9-0, to wrest control of the tournament with an immaculate 3-0 slate.

Marie Angeli Dimakiling delivered the key chess victory by ruling Board 3, while Board 1 player Aices Salvador and Board 4 bet Anna Paula Castillo came through with silver medals to give La Salle a total of 6.5 match points.

Led by Board 1 winner Stelamar Gaudiano and Board 2 champion Annie Mantales, WNC finished second with 5.5 points followed by host USLS.

West Negros, buoyed by victories from Ernie Abanco and Romeo Sadia, registered 6 points to edge Xavier University (5.5) and College of St. Benilde (5) for the men's crown.

Over at the Panaad Park and Stadium, Santo Tomas University's Bernardita Mag-as captured the first gold in athletics by topping the women's 3,000 meters in 10 minutes 48 seconds. UE's Maricel Macquilan copped second.

In women's long jump, FEU's Marriz Contoner stamped her class with a 5.30-m effort to beat teammate Ma. Ariane Lunasco (5.25m).

Ateneo's Ryan Dalman topped the men's discus with a 40.40-meter effort. In women's volleyball, USLS beat Assumption, 25-3, 25-16, 25-14.

Bernabe Cup blasts off Nov. 9

THE MAYOR Jun Bernabe Cup 2006, an annual fund-raising tournament with Parañaque City residents as beneficiaries, will be played Nov. 9 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club's North and South courses.

The mayor made this announcement yesterday after meeting with his brothers Renato, a physician, and Roland, a businessman, the executive committee chair and tournament chair, respectively.

Milo Marathon gears up with 6 races in 30 days

THE 30TH NATIONAL MILO MARATHON GETS BUSY as it enters the final stretch of its 30-leg season.

For the next 30 days, the country's biggest and longest-running foot race holds a record six elimination race in six cities, including four in Luzon.

On Sunday, Milo Marathon holds its 21K qualifying race for the first time in "Botanical Garden City By The Bay" of San Fernando, La Union, where runners from Baguio City, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and La Union are expected to vie for slots to the national finals slated on Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

On Nov. 5, the Milo Marathon visits Iligan City before going to Dipolog City on Nov. 12.

The last three elimination races are set in Luzon—Legazpi City in Bicol on Nov. 16, Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija on Nov. 19 and Santiago City in Isabela on Nov. 26.

The Legazpi leg was actually scheduled on Oct. 1 but was reset due to typhoon Milenyo.

Also on hand on Sunday in San Fernando City are the 5K fun run, 3K race for kids 6-12 years old and the inter-school cheer-dance competition.

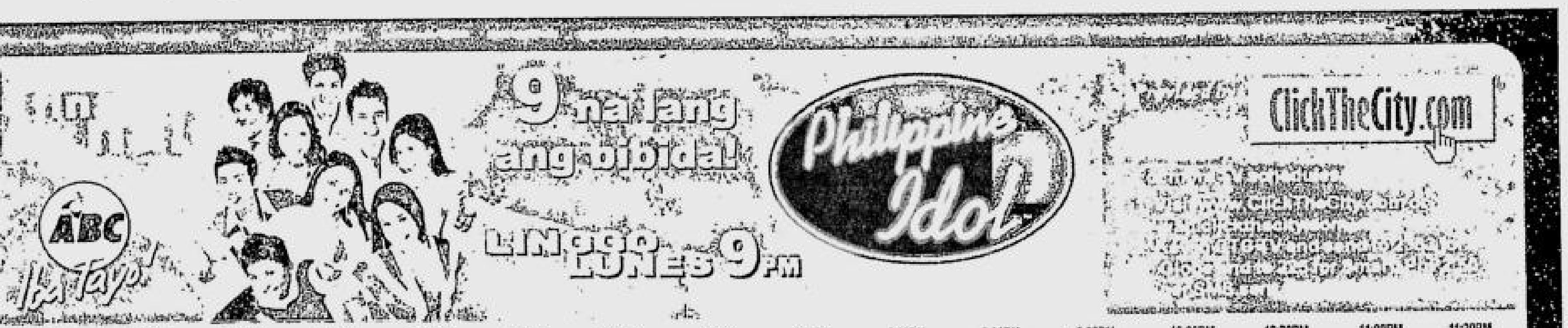
Gov. Victor F. Ortega, City Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega, Vice Mayor Bernardo L. Valero and Councilor Pablo C. Ortega have been invited by local organizer engineer Joseph Dumuk to flag off the more than 5,000 participants, including 100 in the centerpiece 21K race.

They were also invited to assist Milo Sports Events Executive Pat Goc-ong in awarding the trophies and medals to the winners.

The 21K race will start at 6 a.m. in front of the San Fernando City Hall. The event is supported by the City Government of San Fernando, PNP, Schools Division of San Fernando and La Union, the Rotary Clubs of La Union, SFC Fun Cycling Club and La Union Motorcycle Club.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Thursday, October 26, 2006



ABC Iba Tayo!
9 na lang ang bibida!
LINGGO-LUNES 9PM
Philippine Idol
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Mon Cole Knight	Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	TNA Wrestling		Big News	S.O.S		Hayop Sa Hayop		Philippine Idol	Sentro	Shorts		Araw-Araw Premyo Sa Resibo	Letty La Mas Fea
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Idol (8:15 PM)		Maging Sino Ka Man	Pinoy Dream Academy	Crazy For You	Bandila	SOCO	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	Beastmaster (Season I)		Worlds Apart		Fear Factor (Season VI)		Hollywood Homicide					Lost (Season II)
bTV				NBA Special		2006 Champs League: ADMU or UST vs. JRU G7				2006 Champs League: [illegible] vs. [illegible] - G8				NBA Access	NBA Preseason: Rockets @ Heat				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Anak Ng Demonyo				Nang Iniwan Mo Ako				Ang Boyfriend Kong Pari		Shake, Rattle & Roll 6				Aswang			
Cinemax		The Shadow Of The Cat			Arlington Road				Kiss And Tell (6:25 PM)			The Relic				Blade Squad (9:50 PM)			A Cry In The Dark
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Inside The Middle East/CNN Business Traveller/Global Office/Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law Firm		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Bones		Treasure Hunters		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Mega Movers		Dinosaur Planet		Deadliest Catch		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Mythbusters		Innovation On The Fast Track		Ultimates	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-[illegible] Bunny	Shuriken School	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Shuriken School	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Cheerleading	Cheerleading	Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Motorsport Asia	MLB World Series Game4							Sportscenter Asia	World Pool League '05 Poland		World Pool League '05 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace	Friends	Simple Life 4	Rated Oh Special	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	EWTN Presents		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Doc Martin		Spooks		Wire In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO				The Wool Cap (4:15 PM)				The Sister-In-Law			Hard Target			The Stepford Wives			Postcards From The Edge		
Hero TV	Angelic Layer	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar: A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	B-Daman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	AmDriver	Angelic Layer	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arirang		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arirang	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		Just For Laughs	Scare Tactics	Distraction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Intimate Portrait		Look For Less	Good Finds	Martha		E! True Hollywood Story		Your Private Island	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines		Handpicked Hale	VH1 All Access: Celeb Showdown 2		Punk'd	The Hills	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	Ultrasound Hale	TRL		Punk'd	The Hills	MTV Live	Sessions Hale	Vh1 All Access: Older Babes, Younger Guys	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Fresh	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science		Top 5		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Naked Science		Hollywood Science	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Jarvis & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Equilibrium		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		News Bust (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			[illegible] Tanging Ikaw				Hahabol-Habol				Kalangan ko'y Ikaw				Working Boys				Tag-init
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	The 4400		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						Inside the PGA	Golf Today	Billiards: US 9 Ball		WPT Tour				Hoop Nation		Sportsdesk		Autofocus	
Star Movies	Blood Of The Templars (Part 2) (2:20 PM)			The Triumph (4:10 PM)			Ice Princess (5:45 PM)				The Arrangement (7:25 PM)			Vegas Baby			Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Hope & Faith	According To Jim	The Office	Two And A Half Men	The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Hope & Faith
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Joey	Two And A Half Men	Will & Grace	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	Charmed (10:45PM)		MYXlog

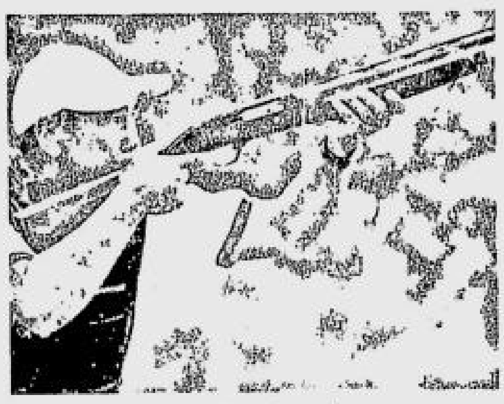
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Milo karate kids in mall tour

THE 6TH MILO SUPER KARATE Kids at SM Supermalls, a series of tournaments organized by the Association for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK), goes on a mall tour with karatekas as young as six showcasing their skills.

An avenue for young karatekas to advance their skills through competition, the Milo Super Karate Kids at SM Supermalls will next take place at the SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 22 for kids aged 12 and above and SM City Sucat on Nov. 19 for 11 years and below.

Recently at the SM City North Edsa, the Super Karate Kids in the 6-7, 8-9, and 10-11 age brackets took center stage. Shining brightest were Alwyn Batican (boys' 8-9) and Ven Laurence Silangil (boys 7-8) of AAK SM Megamall, who both swept the kata and kumite competitions in their respective age groups.


DR. LARRY Buenaflor takes aim.

Clays shooting fires off Oct. 28

THE SPORTING CLAYS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (SCAP) holds the sporting clays national championship Oct. 28-29 at the Team GomaSport shooting range in Hilltop Taytay, Rizal.

According to SCAP president Richard Gomez, the shooter with the highest number of clays hit will earn the title of 2006 national champion.

"Sporting clays shooting is the biggest shotgun shooting sport in the world today," said Gomez. "It is very popular here now."

SCAP is the only country federation accredited by the FITASC (Federation Internationale de Tir Aux Armes Sportives de Chasse).

Competitors, which include old reliables Dr. Larry Buenaflor, Enrique Enriquez, Joey Valdez and gabby Tong, will shoot 200 clay targets over 10 stations. The different classes are masters, Baron, Clubmans, Seniors (up to 59 years old), Veterans (60 years and above) and ladies. There will also be a 20 gauge shotgun open category.

For inquiries, call Malou at 0919-8747142 or email scap@pltddsl.net.

SPORTSWATCH

2 RP boxers enter Tammer Cup semis

LIGHTWEIGHT GENEBERT BASADRE AND WELTERWEIGHT FRANCIS JOVEN overpowered their respective foes to enter the semifinals of the Tammer Cup International Boxing Championship in Tampere, Finland. Basadre beat Miklos Varga of Hungary, 28-23, a fitting follow-up to his 29-26 victory against local bet Joonas Koivuranta. Joven outslugged Nkodo Foster Marcelin of Cameroon, 17-11, in their welterweight clash. The twin wins put the six-man Philippine boxing team in position to win the overall title in the annual competition.

FRANZIA CHAMPIONS: Melvin Llanes and Renel Bernaldo emerged doubles level one champions in the First Franzia Badminton Smash tournament recently at the Yonex Badminton Club. Lucio Cochanco Jr., (left) president of Fly Ace Corp., exclusive distributor of Franzia, a product of the US and the world's best-selling wine, presented the trophies.

Forest Hills Chairman's Cup

THE FOREST HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB WILL STAGE ITS ANNUAL Chairman's Cup Oct. 27-28 with over a hundred participants expected to vie for top honors in various divisions. Fabulous prizes are up for grabs with all par-3s staking hole-in-one prizes consisting of Hyundai Getz Car courtesy of Hyundai Otis, Club Car courtesy of Turf Company, Wilson golf set courtesy of Wilson Sports, and P100,000, the amount of which will be raffled off if no one makes an ace. The event is being held in honor of Forest Hills chair of the board lawyer Ferdinand Santos.

Labanan derby finals today

THOUSANDS OF *SABONG* ENTHUSIASTS CONVERGE TODAY AT THE Araneta Coliseum as the grand finale of No Entry Fee Labanan 7-stag derby takes center stage at 1 p.m. with 145 fights scheduled. *Sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and representatives of Sagupaan Superfeeds will present to the champions a whopping prize of P1.3 million. The winning handler will get P200,000. A total of 270 participants took part in eliminations held in different Metro Manila cockpits. Antonio said that a bigger prize is at stake in the next staging of Labanan stagfest. Call 911-2928 and 911-3101.

PCAP grand championship Oct. 28

THE EIGHTH AND FINAL LEG OF THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby series unfolds on Saturday at Makati Coliseum. The 2006 PCAP Stagfighter of the Year, who stands to receive P1 million, will be known Saturday, according to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Meanwhile, the second edition of Pamaskong Salpukan 6-cock derby is slated Dec. 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 27 and 30. The WTJ group has put up a guaranteed prize of P3 million for an entry fee of P11,000 and minimum bet of P5,500. For reservation of cockhouses, call 896-3545 and 895-6475 (Joan or Stephanie).

Fastest Win event at LPC today

THE CROWD-DRAWING FASTEST WIN ONE-COCK ULUTAN OF LAS PIÑAS Coliseum starts at 10 a.m. today with more than 60 fights lined up. According to coliseum manager Alex Tobias, the fastest win champion will be selected after every 10 fights and will receive P10,000. Hosts Pilo Nablo, Lito Servidad and Simon Damian pegged the entry fee at P1,100. Regular hackfights are also lined up from Monday to Sunday, with P20,000 as bonus to the first 20 winners. Meanwhile, big-time cockfighting returns at LPC on Nov. 2 as Gerry Ramos of GCAP presents the Battle of Champions 5-stag derby. For information, contact 874-3910, 873-1040 and 0926-7450375 (Julius).

Del Prado's son shines with 2 MYG gold medals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TWO SONS OF FORMER NATIONAL ATHLETES SHONE EVEN AS allegations of age-cheating marred Day 4 of the Manila Youth Games invitational track and field competitions yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Isidro del Prado Jr., son of the former Gintong Alay hero and now coach of the Asian Games-bound athletics team, captured two golds to highlight another dominating show by Manilans.

The young Del Prado won the boys' 13-15 400 meters with a 53.8 seconds clocking then sparked Manila's victory in the 4x100-meter relay where the team timed 45.7 seconds, beating Quezon City (48.6) and Cavite Province team (50.5).

Justin Tabunda, whose father Justo was an Asian Gamer like the elder Del Prado, snatched the gold in the boys' 13-15 800 meters. Justin timed 2:03.9, edging Fernel dela Cruz of Baguio City (2:07.00) and Laguna Province's Salvador Garin (2:07.04).

Sharing the limelight was Baguio City's Ma. Melissa Naputo, who bagged her second gold medal after ruling the girls' 13-15 100-meter hurdles to go with her long jump win last Tuesday.

Kathleen Homillano of Manila likewise picked up her second gold after she was declared the girls' shot put winner when Wilmie Martinez of Quezon City was disqualified reportedly because she's overaged.

Games technical chief Ronnie Rolle refused to confirm the report although the athletics results indicated that Martinez was indeed disqualified.

"We still have to go through all the results of the events they entered to finally clean this up," Rolle told the INQUIRER.

Martinez won the shot put event last Tuesday but because she was reportedly overaged, the gold went to Homillano, the Milo Little Olympics champion, who placed second in the event.

RYAN LIM

SARAH Jane Pascua of Candon City bags gold on the 15-under shot put.

Asean Seniors golf up Nov. 6

THE COUNTRY IS LEAVING NO STONES unturned in its hosting of the Asean Seniors Golf Championship.

The 23rd edition of the meet, set Nov. 6-9, will be played in no less than three different courses of the Eagle Ridge in General Trias, Cavite.

The landmark occasion should easily make the country's fourth staging of the annual tournament different from the rest.

"Never in the history of the Asean seniors golf has this been done since the tournament was usually played in only two courses in the past," announced Philip Judan, president of the Federation of Philippine Senior Amateur Golfers Inc.

The courses designed by golf greats Nick Faldo, Greg Norman and Isao Aoki serve as venues of the tournament previously held here in 1987, 1995 and 2001.

Ukrainian GM stops Gomez

UKRAINIAN GRANDMASTER OLEG ROMANishin stopped the winning ways of Filipino International Master-elect John Paul Gomez in the fifth round of the III Calvia Chess Festival Tuesday in Mallorca, Spain.

With the loss, Gomez got stuck at 3.5 points and dropped into a tie for 12th to 26 places along with compatriot IM Oliver Dimakiling, who bested Sandro Mareco of Argentina.

Gomez and Dimakiling will clash in the sixth round.

Romanishin improved his total to 4.5 points and moved into a tie for 1st to 4th places with GM Aleksa Strikovic of Serbia and Montenegro, GM Branko Damljanovic of Serbia and Montenegro and GM Stuart Conquest of England.

Filipino IM Darwin Laylo also bowed to GM Friso Nijboer of Netherlands to remain at 3.0 points with countryman IM Jayson Gonzales, who trounced GM Mihai Suba of Romania). IM Wesley So drew with IM Mario Lanzani of Italy and was at 2.5 points. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Osmeña-Cebu cagers face Jewelers

NEWCOMERS OSMEÑA-CEBU AND MONtana Pawnshop-Davao clash today as action resumes in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Almendras gym in Davao City.

Former Sen. John Osmeña's cagers, playing in only their second game in the country's premier regional league, are slightly favored in the 6 p.m. contest.

The Cebuanos fell to Arthro/Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu, 77-86, in their debut last Monday.

After tonight's match, Osmeña-Cebu will meet the North Cotabato Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol tomorrow.

The Cebuanos' coach, Bing Victoria, is confident of his boys' ability to fight it out for top honors. His team is loaded with veterans like Marlon Legaspi and Niño Marquez.

MATTEO Guidicelli of Velocity Motors-Valvoline Racing smoothly negotiates the bend en route to a big comeback victory in the fifth leg of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships recently.

Guidicelli marks return with big victory

MATTEO GUIDICELLI OF VELOCITY Motors-Valvoline Racing Team marked his comeback with a big victory in the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Guidicelli returned to the touring car scene after missing two legs as he showed consistent driving, race focus and timely moves to pull ahead from his rivals early in the race.

Moreover, he almost broke the two-minute barrier as he logged the fastest laptime of 2:00.168, a sign that he's ready to face the big guns of circuit racing in Group 1 next year.

"Definitely, I'm moving up to the Group 1 class next year," said Guidicelli. "And for sure, I'm going to stick with the Velocity Motors-Valvoline Racing Team."

The 16-year-old Guidicelli not only turned back equally tough rivals in the Group 3 Petron Blaze National Production Car Championship but also upstaged more experienced veterans in the premier Group 1 Petron Blaze Super Saloon Series as he finished fourth overall behind Jody Coseteng, Don Pastor and Dominic Bon in the combined 12-lap race.

He clocked 22:27.223 to rule the Group 3 Petron Blaze National Production Car Championship against runner-up JP Carino and two title contenders—Uly Maningding and his Velocity Motors-Valvoline Racing teammate Pacho Blanco.

NAVITIMER WORLD

chronos

Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, Greenhills Shopping Center, Rockwell Center, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall

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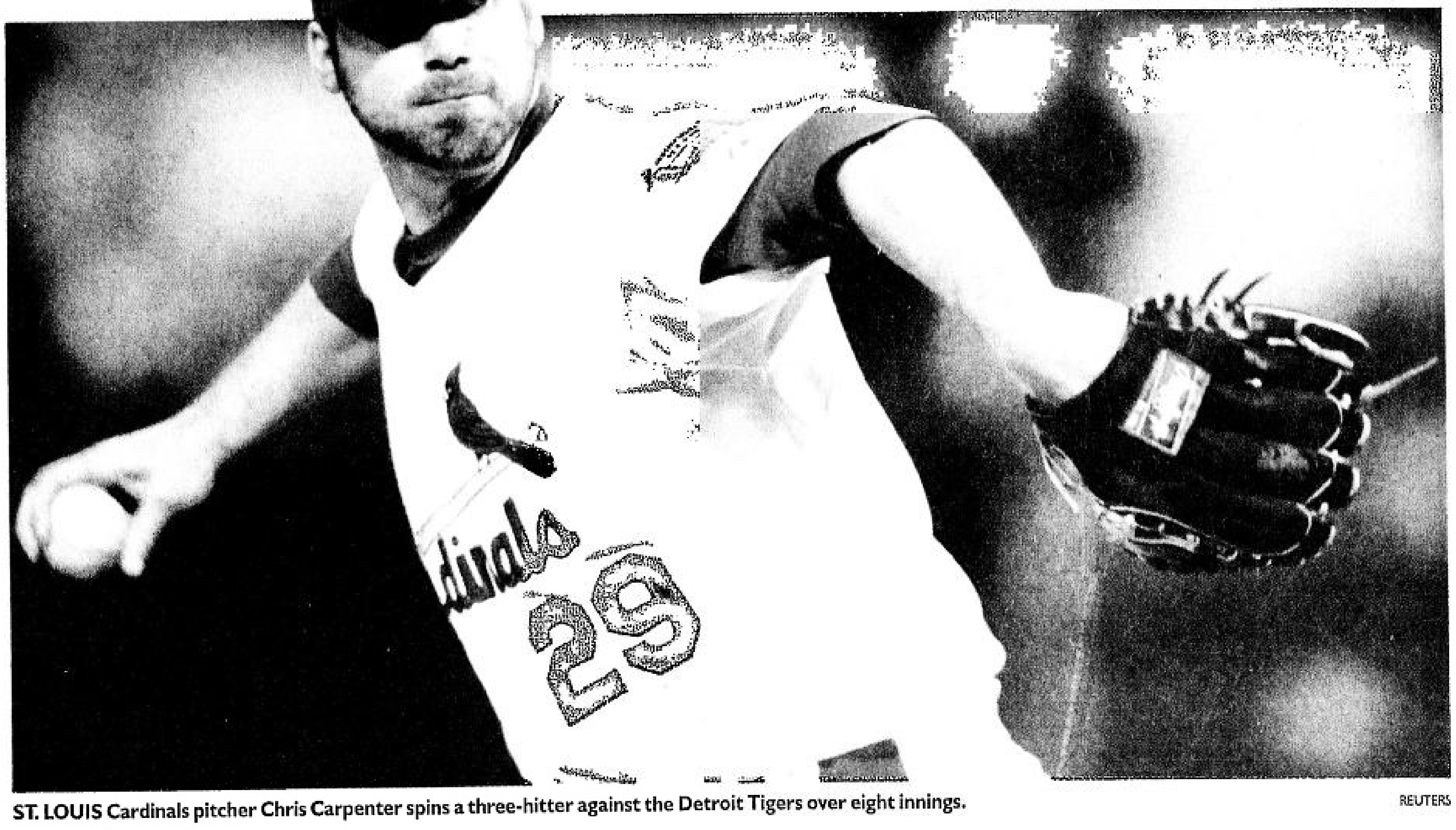


ST. LOUIS Cardinals pitcher Chris Carpenter spins a three-hitter against the Detroit Tigers over eight innings. REUTERS

Carpenter hammers Tigers

Cardinals take 2-1 World Series lead via 5-0 rout

ST. LOUIS—CHRIS CARPENTER was well on his way to a World Series win when, all of sudden, people swarmed the mound to examine his hand.

No smudge, no scuffs. Just a cramp, and it wasn't about to blemish his outing.

Carpenter looked every bit a Cards' ace as he threw the Detroit Tigers a curve, pitching St. Louis to a 5-0 victory Tuesday night for a 2-1 Series edge.

Carpenter used big breaking balls to spin three-hit ball for eight innings. And with Jim Edmonds hitting a key double and St. Louis taking advantage of a poor throw, the Cardinals returned their focus squarely to the field.

Gone were any reminders of the squabbling Kenny Rogers caused with his smudged left hand in Game 2.

Oh, Rogers heard plenty from the sellout crowd at Busch Stadium during pregame introductions, as chants of "Cheat-er!" echoed throughout the ballpark. But that was about the only noise the Tigers caused in this game.

Looking fierce with his three-day beard, Carpenter showed why he won the NL Cy Young Award last year and is a top contender this season. He struck out six, walked none and kept the Tigers' trio of Placido Polanco, Ivan Rodriguez and Curtis Granderson hitless in the Series.

Carpenter's lone problem came in the seventh inning. As Polanco led off by lining out to good friend Albert Pujols, Carpenter hopped off the mound and looked at his hand.

Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, a trainer and the entire St. Louis infield converged on the mound, peering at Carpenter's bare right hand. Plate umpire Wally Bell also went out to check as reliever Josh Kinney began warming up in a hurry.

All in all, it certainly was a lot more attention than Rogers attracted on the field after a yellowish-brown mark was spotted on his hand—he said it was a mix of dirt, spit and resin, while others claimed it was illegal pine tar.

A moment later, Carpenter was deemed to be OK. He proved it, too, by continuing to set down the Tigers to constant cheers. He drew his biggest roar when he got a standing ovation as he came to bat in the eighth.

Braden Looper took over in the ninth and finished the combined three-hitter.

Game 4 will be Wednesday night, provided a forecast of steady rain holds off. If it does, NL championship series MVP Jeff Suppan will start against Jeremy Bonderman.

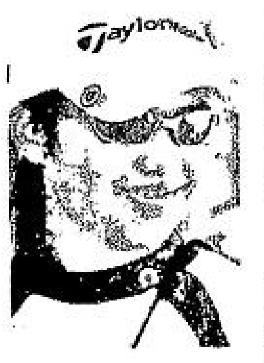
The Tigers had homered in all 10 postseason games before Carpenter stopped them. And a Detroit team that averaged 5½ runs per game throughout the AL playoffs has scored a total of five in the World Series.

It was somewhat of a surprise, too. Carpenter gave up a season-high seven runs at Detroit in June, and the Tigers' starting lineup was hitting .356 against him. *AP*

Special Olympics up

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS PHILIPPINES WILL hold its 11th National Games on Nov. 6, 7 and 8 at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City. Over 700 intellectually handicapped athletes from different parts of the country, including 400 volunteer coaches and officials, will participate in this three-day sports event covering competitions in aquatics, athletics, basketball, bowling, boccia, volleyball, table tennis, gymnastics and soccer. The Special Olympics Philippines is a non-government organization with a mission to provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions to children and adults with intellectual disability. For more information on the event, call 9266946.

Poveda hosts fundraising golf



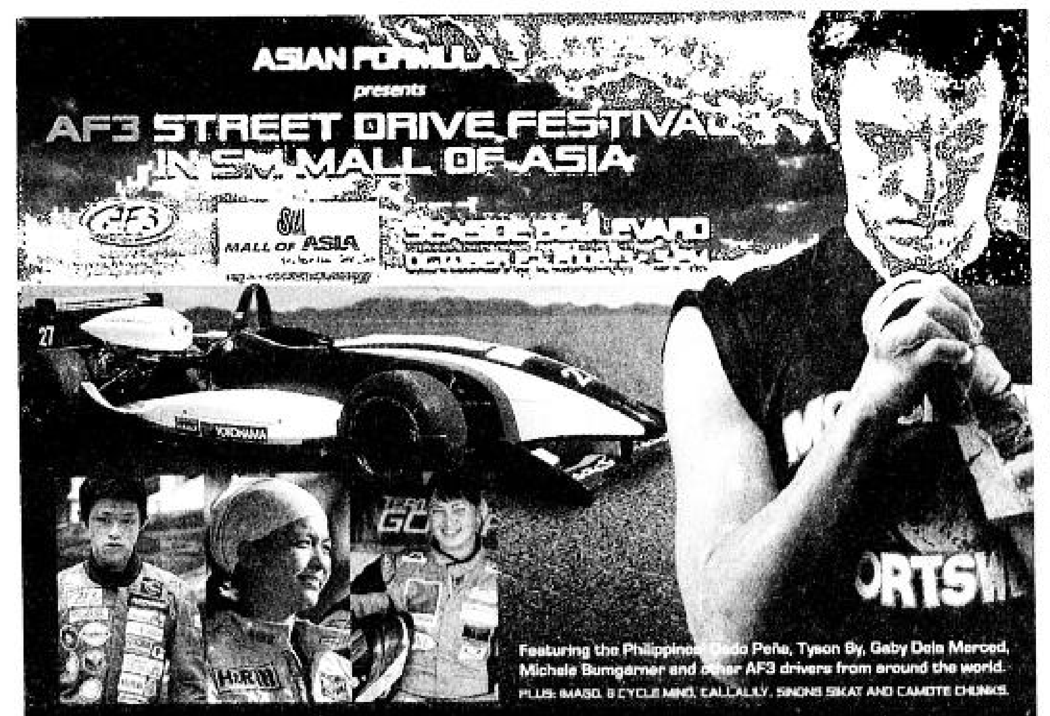
SOTTO

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF POVEDA Foundation and the Poveda Class of 1982 will hold a fundraising golf tournament for the benefit of the underprivileged and deserving tertiary students of Saint Pedro Poveda College and the Makabata Foundation at the Alabang Country Club on Friday Oct. 27.

Tee of time is 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Among those who have rushed to support Poveda's cause were presenter GMA and sponsors Meralco, Jose Rizal University, Foro Consulting Inc., Rockwell Land, Revlon, First Gen Corp., BMW Autohaus, Bayantel, National University, Benpress Holdings, Capital Servicing, with the cooperation of JR and R Distributors Inc., Delta Distribution Corp., Baby & Company, Miladay Jewelry, Ginebra San Miguel, Electrobus Consolidated, distributor of Callaway Golf, Paisley Pastry, 3636 Underground Fashion and Ford Libis.

Father and daughter tandem of Poveda Jungolf standout Paulina Sotto and Vic Sotto will lead the ceremonial tee-off. Call 6350565, 6318756 loc. 148 and 09176232456 for inquiries.



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European drivers join final four AF3 rounds

EUROPEAN DRIVERS CHARLIE Hollings and Walter Grubmuller of England and Philip Forsman of Sweden will race in the last four rounds of the Asian Formula Three series next week at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Asian Formula Three Corp. chair Eddie Pena said the three are veteran karters and Formula Renault drivers bidding to make the jump to Formula Three racing.

Macanese driver Lei King Meng, a regular competitor in the Macau Grand Prix, will join the Batangas event as part of his preparations for his home country's featured race.

"The three European drivers have raced in tough European races and have what it takes to give our regular drivers a run for their money," said Peña. "We'll see how our guys respond to the challenge."

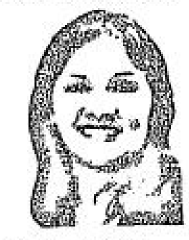
All four drivers are expected to hit town this week and grace the AF3 Street Drive tomorrow at the SM Mall of Asia where the leading drivers of the 2006 season, led by Britons James Winslow and Dillon Battistini and Filipinos Tyson Sy and Dado Peña, will show their driving skills before an expected big crowd.

Eddie Peña said all is set for the street drive, the second this year after the inaugural street drive last April on Roxas Boulevard.

The street drive highlights a hectic grind for the AF3 that will culminate with the last four rounds set on Nov. 4-5 at the BRC. The winners will be crowned on Nov. 6 at the Silver City Automall in Pasig.

Where will UAAP star go?

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

I WAS SURPRISED to get a phone call the other day from Jojo Gamboa, a new friend who I traveled to Beijing with last May for the 2006 Adidas Summer Camp. That time, Jojo chaperoned his son Kevin, one of only two Filipino participants in the three-day annual sporting event which featured NBA cagers Dwight Howard and TJ Ford.

Anyway, Jojo said he had bumped into a couple of colleagues at the Acropolis Gym where the unnamed UAAP cager in my last column was working out with the San Miguel Beermen.

Jojo identified the colleagues as Player X's father and agent.

Since he lives just across the gym, Jojo invited the two for coffee. In the course of the discussions, he said the blind item in this column was mentioned.

"They are still here, would you like to listen to their side?" Jojo asked.

***

In a while I found myself talking with the agent who explained at length why the cager had failed to keep his appointments with the manager of the PBL team that had drafted him.

"It wasn't intentional, *nagipit lang sa oras talaga*," he said, as he presented me with a blueprint of the cager's tentative plans for his basketball career.

The cager had a number of options after graduation, according to the agent.

"The first is to play alongside two of his college teammates in the PBL. The second, to play for a semi-pro league in the United States.

"The second option was hatched long ago when US-based agent Chiqui de la Rosa was still alive. Now that he's gone, his associate has offered to pursue the plan."

***

Due to recent developments that have made the first option practically unfeasible, the agent said they are now working with conduits of the late Chiqui to get a US contract for the cager.

"But I couldn't imagine him making the statement about going straight to the pros from college. It's out of character," the agent pointed out, although two callers had identified the cager in my blind item because they recognized the statement.

The third option, he said, was for the cager to play for the PBL team that had drafted him.

Since I could have heard wrong, I asked Jojo for a confirmation yesterday.

He said the cager is awaiting a formal offer from the United States.

"If it doesn't come, he'll play in the second conference of the PBL," he confirmed.

Well I hope he hasn't burned his bridges with the PBL team owner who feels that in addition to an attitude problem, the cager doesn't think much of the PBL.

***

I know of at least two collegiate teams who are in search of coaching replacements.

A Mapua alumnus said they are looking at several candidates to take over the post that has been vacated by coach Horacio Lim whose contract expired end of October.

On top of the list was Mapua graduate Alvin Patrimonio, followed by fellow-alumni Leo Isaac, Junel Baculi, Jack Santiago and Arlene Rodriguez, not necessarily in that order.

I say "was" instead of "is" because Alvin has begged off, thanking his alma mater for the nice offer. Alvin is tied up with Purefoods Corporation where he sits as team manager of the Chunkee Giants. He definitely will have no time for an additional coaching job.

The Mapua alumnus who called announced that the door is open for interested applicants.

***

Since I just heard a conflicting report about the other collegiate (UAAP) team scouting around for a new coach, let me just put the name of the university on hold.

One alumnus has asked me for recommendations, while another was certain the old coach would be retained.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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BUSINESS

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Fact 3: Sleep loss due to frequent urination at night (nocturia) can lead to mood alteration during the day that can lead to difficulty in dealing with other people and undue stress.
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1408.4
A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Manufacturing output down 7% in August

MARC Soong (left), executive director of Jaguar Cars Inc., and his father, company president Wellington Soong, pose beside the new Jaguar XK sports car after its unveiling at the Jaguar Showroom in Makati City. The British-made, all-aluminum body comes in Coupe and Convertible. The car sells for P8.5 million. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Traders blame smuggling for continued decline

By Michelle V. Remo

PRODUCTION OF THE COUNTRY'S MANUFACTURING sector shrank 7 percent in August from a year ago, the eighth straight month of year-on-year declines.

The drop in August, however, was slower than the the 10.6-percent decline in the volume of production index recorded in July. The biggest year-on-year drop was posted in April at 12.8 percent.

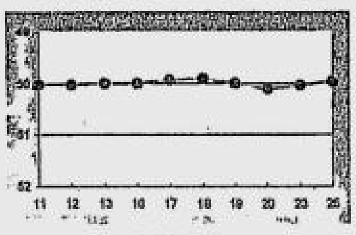
The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) had said that the declining volume of production by the country's manufacturers could be blamed partly on the perennial problem of smuggling, which had eaten a huge share of the domestic market.

Documents from the National Statistics Office showed that the drop in the overall production index was contributed by the following subsectors in the manufacturing industry: non-electrical machinery (-48), leather and leather products (-45.2), electrical machinery (-36.5 percent), textiles (-28.7), footwear and wearing apparel (-25), glass and glass products (-23.8), petroleum products (-17.9), cement (-16), nonmetallic mineral products (-15.2), transport equipment (-13.6), paper and paper products (-7.3), wood and wood products (-6.1), and rubber products (-0.8).

MANUFACTURING/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 49.955 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 25, 2006

¥ 119.09 = $ 1

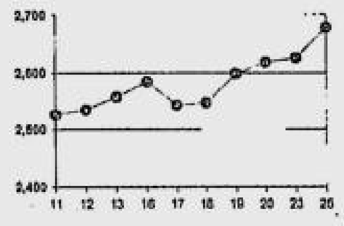
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 25, 2006

GOLD: $583.50-584.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 25, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks still surging on upbeat economic outlook

SHARES ROSE TO THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL in nine years yesterday amid upbeat sentiment toward the country's economic and fiscal outlook.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine

STOCKS/ B2

Easing of IPR law to lower medicine prices

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

FOREIGN PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS can argue that medicines in the Philippines are not the most expensive in the world, but there is no arguing that they are not cheap either.

This is especially true when local drug prices are compared with those in India and Pakistan, two countries which have loosened intellectual property rights along the radical lines proposed by Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II.

According to Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), prices of pharmaceutical products sold locally are so high that an average of four out of five Filipinos live—and sometimes die—without access to medicine.

"Six years ago, the World Health Organization said that less than 30 percent [of Filipinos] had access to medicines," PITC chair and president Roberto Pagdanganan said in an interview. "That number has now fallen further."

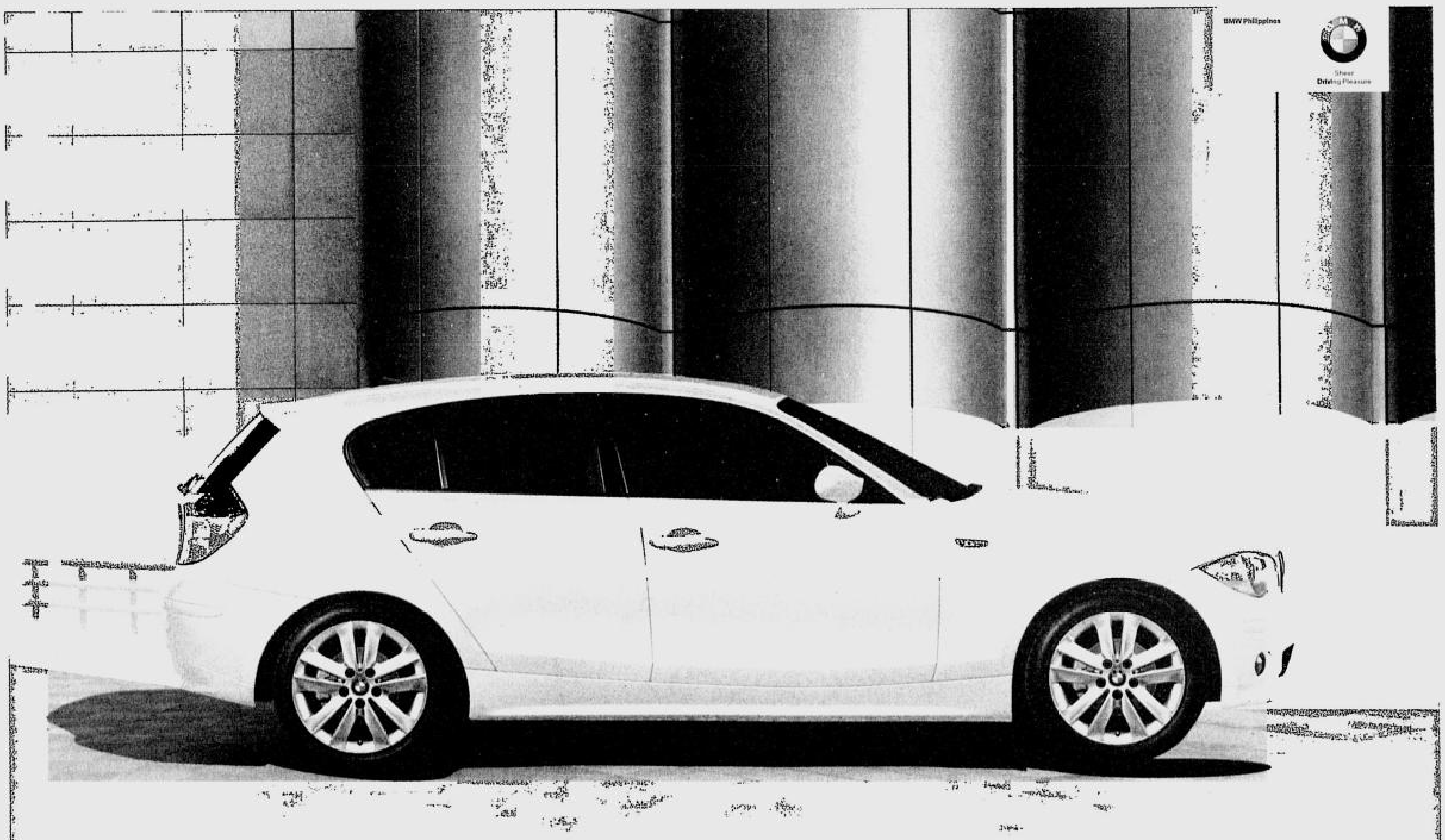
At present, PITC's main activity is to scour the globe for branded medicines that are cheaper than those sold locally, import them in bulk, and sell them at prices lower than those offered by foreign pharmaceutical firms.

Often, PITC offers medicines manufactured by the same pharmaceutical firms, but at significantly lower prices—a practice that the foreign manufacturers oppose.

"Why will these very same companies sell the same medicines in India or Pakistan for so much less, while pricing them so high here?" Pagdanganan said. "This is not right."

Indeed, a survey of prices conducted by PITC from its foreign forays revealed that Norvasc, a prescription drug for hypertension, costs the equivalent of only P5 in India, but is sold at P44.75 lo-

EASING/ B3



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Heist makes waste

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

And so acting on its own, this cute administration of Gloriaetta committed our country—which is the Philippines, just in case Malacañang officials have forgotten—to a top-secret economic partnership agreement with Japan, formally called the "Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement."

Now, I am not sure what the media fuss over this secret agreement is all about.

First of all, we are going to help the Japanese people live comfortably a bit longer by sending them professional nurses and trained health caregivers who will take care of the fast-aging population.

Secondly, the Japanese will save a lot of money, because our nurses and our caregivers always settle for cheap pay.

In return, we here in the Philippines will receive from that rich country this product called "waste."

I am not kidding: Our own public officials talk of "waste," at least when they refer to the secret agreement, like it is a real "product."

You know—in much the same way as designer underwear or luminous condom.

Offhand, what I can say to Japan regarding the agreement is this: THE NERVE!

And to this cute administration: How stupid! Don't tell me that our beloved officials did not see the agreement as an out and out heist.

It's not as if, by importing Filipino nurses and caregivers, Japan is doing this country a big favor. Those health care professionals are the kind of workers that Japan needs badly, anyway.

And so please somebody tell me if we really need Japan's product technically known as "waste?"

According to the DTI undersecretary who reportedly headed the Philippine side in the negotiations with Japan, a certain Thomas Aquino, the agreement covered a broad range of "products." (There it is again—that sanitized deodorant word!)

He was quoted as saying that the agreement covered only certain kinds of "waste." You know—the "regulated" kind. It seems that, to our public officials, not all waste are created equal.

But why can't they just keep their "waste" in Japan? Why does Japan have to export its "waste" to other countries? Is it because ours is a poor country, and Japan is a rich country, and so Japan can do as it pleases? Or are public officials simply just plain stupid?

In the first place, Japan became rich by taking advantage of poor countries like the Philippines, selling to us expensive industrial goods, while getting our commodities like minerals and logs at bargain prices.

It's still the "beggar thy neighbor" foreign policy of Japan. And this is the country that lost in World War II. Just imagine what it would have been like had Japan won.

***

This cute administration perhaps believes that we have a highly efficient (and honest) DENR for the DTI to think that we can go into this… well, "waste importation business."

Handling of dangerous waste, even just the "regulated" kind, is not exactly the same as scavenging in the streets of Metro Manila.

For what is the track record of the DENR if not terrible? One good example is the port in Poro Point, La Union, which the DENR closed down because it did not have—of all things—an "environmental clearance."

The DENR itself should have known the lapse of the Poro Point operator from the very start of operation six years ago, okay!

Actually, the DENR only served as the triggerman in the fight for control of the port business, reportedly between the present operator headed by Manuel Tan and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

A relative of Singson named Felix S. Racadio, president of the Poro Point Management Corp., the partner of the private operator, sent a letter to the DENR head office, complaining about the lack of the clearance.

That was last July 25. After only six days on July 31, the DENR director in Ilocos ordered the closure of the port. Wow! No hearing and what have you! And the DENR boss, Secretary Angelo Reyes, even kept quiet.

Worse, he did not withdraw the closure order.

Yet the DENR undersecretary for legal affairs, Armi Jane Roa-Borje, specifically directed the DENR office in Ilocos to conduct an "immediate investigation," before the DENR could even do anything about the letter.

In short, due process!

Well, under the DENR rules, prior to a closure order, the DENR must first serve notice to a company suspected of violating environmental rules.

And then the DENR conducts technical hearings. And only then can the DENR decided on its course of action.

None of that happened in the Poro Point case.

Result: The entire business community is fearful of arbitrary closure orders from the DENR.

To think, this country is only supposed to be trying to attract more investments.

Malacañang even had our "competitiveness" program sorted out, including the removal of "red tape."

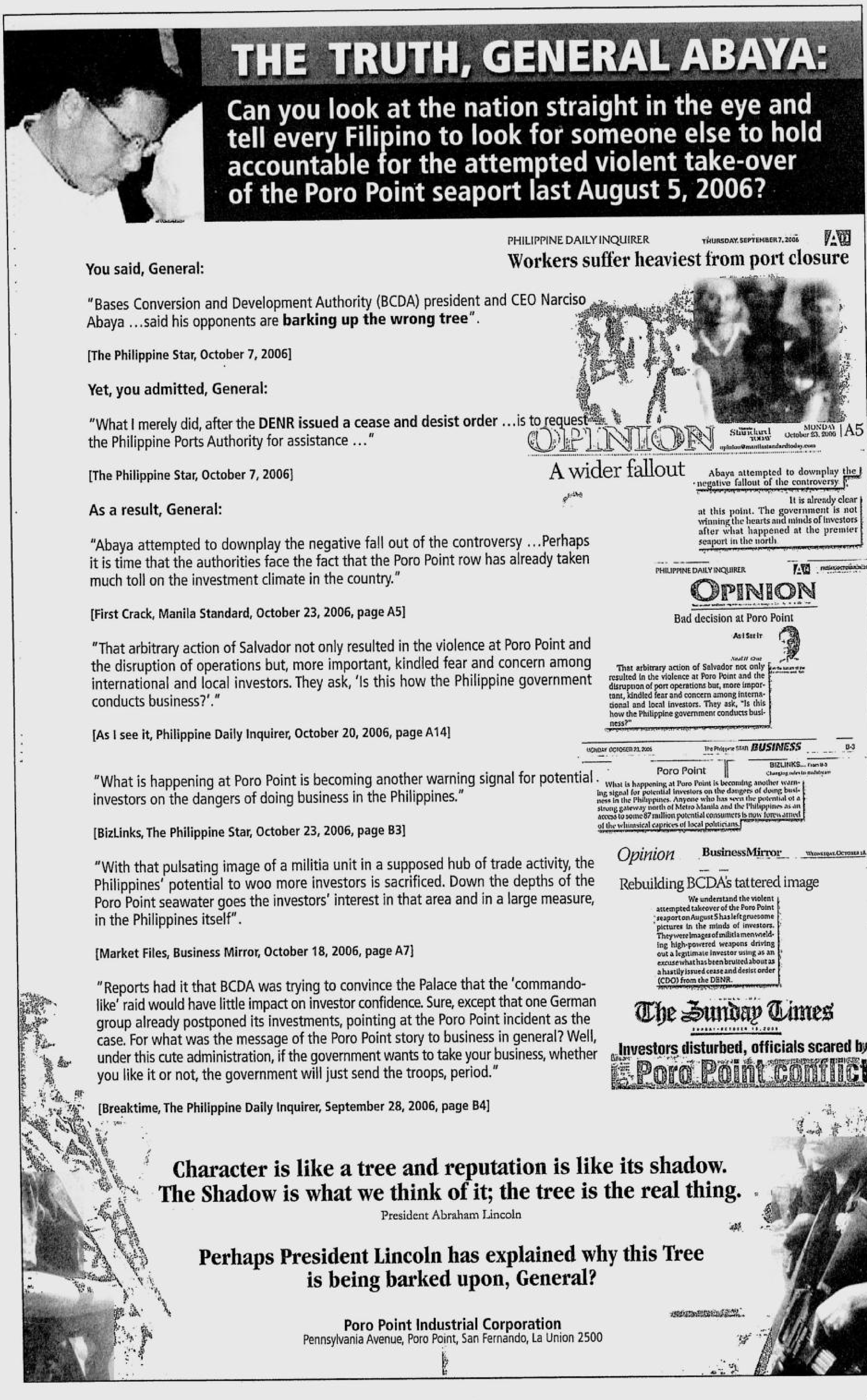
The DENR scored superbly by issuing a closure order in record time.

Anyway, foreign business chambers are not too excited about the controversial closure of the port.

It sends a bad signal to the investors.

For one, our government cannot really honor its own contracts.

Well, maybe we also do not have to honor that economic partnership agreement with Japan after all.



THE TRUTH, GENERAL ABAYA:

Can you look at the nation straight in the eye and tell every Filipino to look for someone else to hold accountable for the attempted violent take-over of the Poro Point seaport last August 5, 2006?

You said, General:

"Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) president and CEO Narciso Abaya …said his opponents are **barking up the wrong tree**".

[The Philippine Star, October 7, 2006]

Yet, you admitted, General:

"What I merely did, after the **DENR issued a cease and desist order** …is to request the Philippine Ports Authority for assistance …"

[The Philippine Star, October 7, 2006]

As a result, General:

"Abaya attempted to downplay the negative fall out of the controversy …Perhaps it is time that the authorities face the fact that the Poro Point row has already taken much toll on the investment climate in the country."

[First Crack, Manila Standard, October 23, 2006, page A5]

"That arbitrary action of Salvador not only resulted in the violence at Poro Point and the disruption of operations but, more important, kindled fear and concern among international and local investors. They ask, 'Is this how the Philippine government conducts business?'."

[As I see it, Philippine Daily Inquirer, October 20, 2006, page A14]

"What is happening at Poro Point is becoming another warning signal for potential investors on the dangers of doing business in the Philippines."

[BizLinks, The Philippine Star, October 23, 2006, page B3]

"With that pulsating image of a militia unit in a supposed hub of trade activity, the Philippines' potential to woo more investors is sacrificed. Down the depths of the Poro Point seawater goes the investors' interest in that area and in a large measure, in the Philippines itself".

[Market Files, Business Mirror, October 18, 2006, page A7]

"Reports had it that BCDA was trying to convince the Palace that the 'commando-like' raid would have little impact on investor confidence. Sure, except that one German group already postponed its investments, pointing at the Poro Point incident as the case. For what was the message of the Poro Point story to business in general? Well, under this cute administration, if the government wants to take your business, whether you like it or not, the government will just send the troops, period."

[Breaktime, The Philippine Daily Inquirer, September 28, 2006, page B4]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2006 A

Workers suffer heaviest from port closure

OPINION Standard TODAY MONDAY October 23, 2006 A5

A wider fallout

Abaya attempted to downplay the negative fallout of the controversy.

It is already clear at this point. The government is not winning the hearts and minds of investors after what happened at the premier seaport in the north.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A

OPINION

Bad decision at Poro Point

That arbitrary action of Salvador not only resulted in the violence at Poro Point and the disruption of port operations but, more important, kindled fear and concern among international and local investors. They ask, "Is this how the Philippine government conducts business?"

MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2006 The Philippine STAR BUSINESS B-3

Poro Point

BIZLINKS…

What is happening at Poro Point is becoming another warning signal for potential investors on the dangers of doing business in the Philippines. Anyone who has seen the potential of a strong gateway north of Metro Manila and the Philippines as an access to some 87 million potential consumers is now forewarned of the whimsical caprices of local politicians.

Opinion BusinessMirror

Rebuilding BCDA's tattered image

We understand the violent attempted takeover of the Poro Point seaport on August 5 has left gruesome pictures in the minds of investors. They were images of militia men wielding high-powered weapons driving out a legitimate investor using as an excuse what has been bruited about as a hastily issued cease and desist order (CDO) from the DENR.

The Sunday Times

Investors disturbed, officials scared by Poro Point conflict

Character is like a tree and reputation is like its shadow.
The Shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.
President Abraham Lincoln

Perhaps President Lincoln has explained why this Tree is being barked upon, General?

Poro Point Industrial Corporation
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union 2500

ICT industry sees 10% growth in '06

By Riza T. Olchondra

LOCAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS technology players expect a 10-percent sales growth this year, according to the Computer Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (COMDDAP).

COMDDAP president Juan Chua said IT spending by small and medium enterprises and business process outsourcing industries would continue to drive growth in the enterprise markets, while increased remittances from overseas Filipino workers would increase sales of computers, consumer electronics and digital gadgets.

To continue the growth momentum next year, COMMDAP has gathered more than 40 technology companies, including homegrown software developers, for the COMDDAP Expo Manila from Oct. 26 to 29 at the COMDDAP Tent in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga and Commission on Information and Communications Technology chairman Ramon Sales led government officials and industry leaders during the opening ceremonies.

The COMDDAP Expo expects to attract some 40,000 visitors during its four-day run, mostly from trade and enterprise sectors looking to upgrade their systems or equipment.

The COMDDAP expo is the country's longest-running computer exhibit and market-driven show.

This year, COMDDAP has also tapped local software developers to offer their products to the local market.

One of the new products to be launched at the Expo is the "Rapid Prototyping Machine" of CIM Technologies that can print a 3D prototype of any product design.

Business solutions offered by software developers cater to operations such as a dental clinic, finance and distribution, hospital management, payroll and human resource and inventory management.

Stocks still …

From page B1

Stock Exchange Index rose 53.20 points, or 2 percent, to 2,678.72—its highest close since Aug. 6, 1997.

The index was up 0.3 percent Monday. Financial markets were closed Tuesday to mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Yesterday's advance brings the index's total gains to 5.3 percent over the past five sessions.

"Barring any negative developments, it looks like the market is headed toward 2,700," said Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal. The 2,700-point mark is a key resistance level for the market and the year-end target for a number of brokerage houses.

"The positive local fundamentals and the positive leads from abroad are boosting the market," said AB Capital Securities research director Jose Vistan, noting the market played catch-up to Wall Street's rally Monday and continued gains Tuesday.

First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo said hopes of favorable third-quarter corporate earnings results due for release in the coming days aided the market's advance.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, rising 0.2 percent to P2,285, following the 1.2-percent gain by the company's American depository receipts in New York.

PLDT also is expected to post strong third-quarter corporate results Nov. 7.

Megaworld rose 3.7 percent to P2.22 on the property sector's bright prospects and the company's growing list of projects. AP

Gov't housing agency to auction ₱12B in bonds

HGC raising funds for various socialized housing credit activities

By Michelle V. Remo

STATE-OWNED HOME GUARANTEE Corp. (HGC) will auction today P12 billion worth of zero coupon bonds to raise funds for its socialized housing credit operations.

The auction will be held at and will use the facility of the Bureau of the Treasury, which has invited banks serving as dealers of government securities to participate.

Philippine Commercial Capital Inc., AB Capital and Investment Corp., Multinational Investment Bancorp., RCBC Capital Corp. and SB Capital Investment Corp. were tapped as issue manager and joint lead underwriters for the bond float.

Today's auction will be the second bond flotation to be undertaken by HGC in four years. In August 2002, HGC successfully raised P7 billion worth of zero coupon bonds.

HGC was established through Republic Act 8763, or the Home Guaranty Act of 2000, to operate a credit guaranty program in support of the government's efforts to promote home ownership.

HGC provides guaranty to housing loans extended by financial institutions to credit applicants. It is mandated to guaranty the payment of all forms of mortgages, loans and other forms of credit facilities and receivables arising from financial contracts exclusively for purposes of home ownership.

Moves to tap the bond market for its fund-raising activity helps HGC perform its mandate despite the difficulty of realizing expected cash from its asset-disposition program. The state-run firm's efforts to dispose of assets it foreclosed are being challenged by delays, partly due to legal impediments hounding the sale of the disputed assets.

As of end-June this year, HGC's losses amounted to P381.79 million, or 4.3-percent higher than the P366.05 million a year ago.

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Manufacturing output down 7% in August

From page B1

On the other hand, growth in the volume of production was registered by basic metals (36 percent), non-ferrous metals (32.1), miscellaneous manufactures (28.6), miscellaneous non-metallic minerals (24.6), furniture and fixtures (23.8), iron and steel (17.1), chemical products (13.7), food (11.6), publishing and printing (3.8), and fabricated metal products (3.5).

Measured in terms of value, the manufacturing sector's production grew 6.3 percent from a year ago. The value of production index is measured in terms of prices and therefore factors in inflation.

The NSO also reported that average capacity utilization rate, which measures how much of total production capacity of manufacturing firms was used, stood at 80.3 percent in August, slightly up from the 80.2 percent in July.

The Producers Price Index, which measures growth in the prices of equipment and goods used by businesses for production, decelerated to 14.3 percent in August from the previous month's 15.5 percent.

The continuing decline in manufacturing output has prompted calls for the government to verify the statistical reports due to the discrepancy between results of the Monthly Integrated Survey for Selected Industries (Missi), which reports on the performance of the manufacturing sector, and the report on the national income accounts of the Philippines.

Victor Abola, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, noted that according to the national income accounts, manufacturing was the biggest contributor to the growth of the industry sector in the second quarter, expanding by 6.5 percent from that of the same period the previous year.

Some economists also said the consistent drop in the volume of manufacturing output as reported in the Missi did not jive with the exports growth so far seen this year. The country's merchandise exports grew 16.9 percent in January to August.

Easing of IPR law to lower medicine prices

From page B1

cally; a Ventolin inhaler for bronchial asthma is sold at P231 in Thailand, but sells for P406 in the Philippines; and Bactrim 400, an antibiotic to treat a wide range of infections, costs P17.75 in local drugstores, but is priced the equivalent of P1 in Pakistan and P0.69 in India.

Recently, the local unit of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer sued PITC before the Makati Regional Trial Court after the government agency started importing its Norvasc anti-hypertension drug while the company's patent was still in effect, a practice that allegedly violates the company's intellectual property rights.

In the interview, Pagdanganan accused Pfizer of harassing his agency, noting that he was sued for importing only 40 tablets which PITC would compare with the same medicines marketed locally.

At the same time, he accused Pfizer of leading a disinformation campaign to make the public wary of generic medicines.

"They are deliberately misinforming the public that generics are no good," he said. "Have you seen that [television] ad by Pfizer? The subliminal message is that generics are fake."

For Pagdanganan, the way forward to ensure that more Filipinos can afford medicines is the swift passage of the Roxas bill, which will remove any doubt as to whether PITC's activities are legal or not.

"That will solve this case once and for all," he said.

Among other thing, the Roxas bill—or Senate Bill No. 2263—seeks to adopt the "early working" doctrine to allow generic producers to get ready earlier so that they can start the production and sale of a generic drug shortly after its patent expires.

"This proposed amendment is known internationally as the Bolar amendments after such were entered into US laws," Roxas said in an interview. "Many other countries have adopted similar provisions, such as Canada, Argentina, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Moreover, this principle has been recognized by the WTO in a case involving Canada versus the European Union member states."

The proposed law will also adopt the "doctrine of international exhaustion of intellectual property rights" from the present domestic exhaustion principle currently applied in the Philippines.

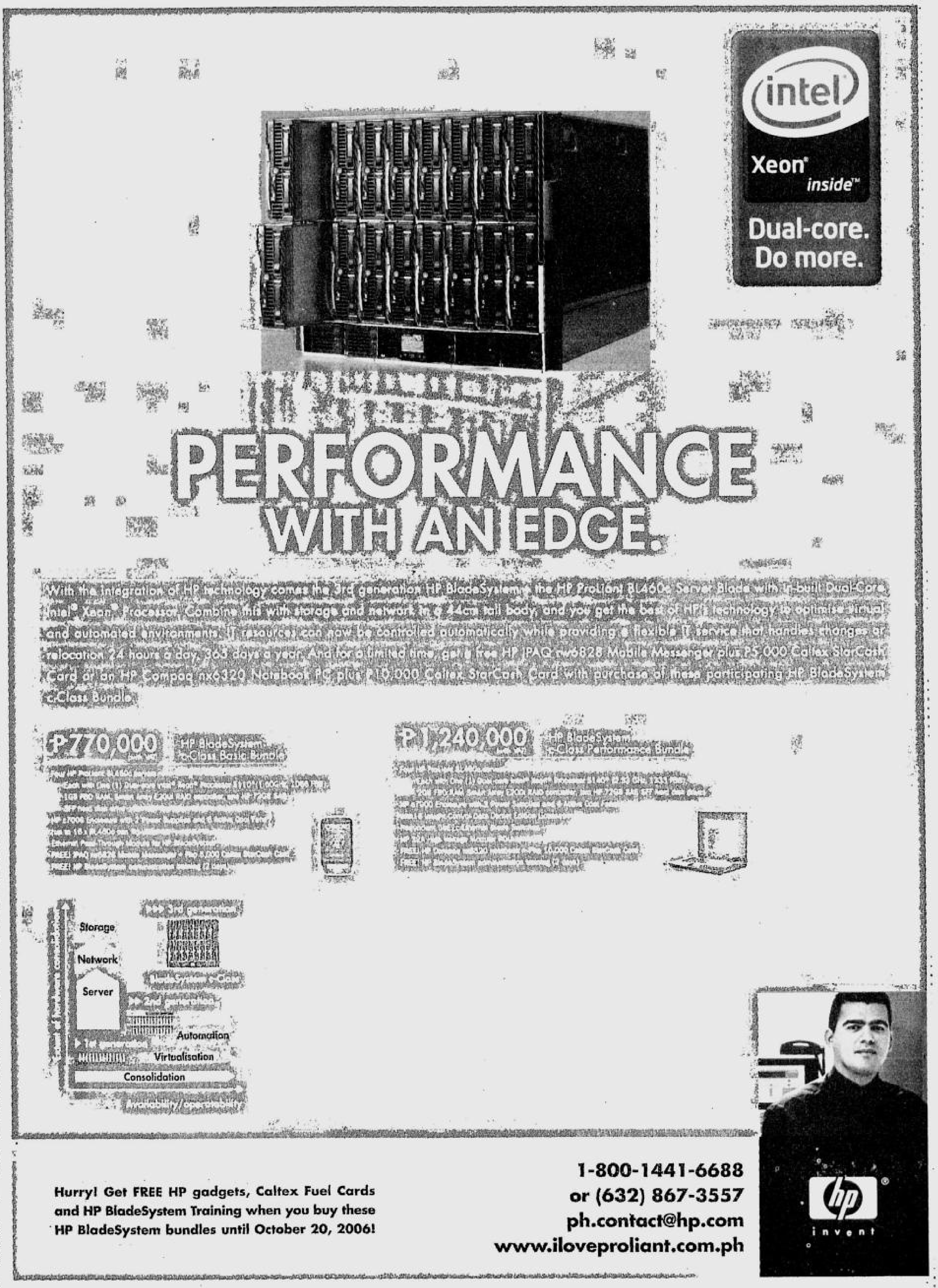
"Under the international exhaustion regime, once a product has been introduced anywhere in the world by the patent owner, then anyone may buy and import the same for resale in the Philippines without risk of patent infringement," the senator explained. "Consequently, this amendment will allow the parallel importation of medicines so that anyone, whether a trader or an individual, can shop beyond our shores for better prices."

"We have a solemn duty to correct this injustice," Roxas said.

Naturally, foreign pharmaceutical firms have been fighting tooth and nail to protect their rights—and profit margins—from the erosion that the Roxas bill will cause.

What is clear, however, is that the so-called "oligopolistic practices" of these foreign pharmaceutical firms are under increasing pressure from the consumers and the government, and by globalization.

It is no longer a question of "if" medicine prices will come down, but one of "how fast."



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IC starts regulating sale of micro-insurance products

Building consumer confidence in the industry

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION has issued a circular regulating the sale of micro-insurance products to low-income earners.

The move is aimed at ensuring that investments by policyholders are protected from liquidity problems, said Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo.

Escobillo said formalizing the micro-insurance industry, through government regulation, would help develop public confidence in the system and, therefore, promote the industry and the domestic capital market as a whole.

"There were some MBAs (mutual benefit associations) that collapsed in the past. That was our concern in 2005 and early 2006, and so we came up with this move to regulate them," she said in a press briefing held at the Insurance Commission yesterday.

Micro-insurance products, commonly sold by MBAs, cater to low-income earners as they require a much lower premium than regular insurance products. Insurance products offered by MBAs included those that give death, retirement, education and sickness benefits.

Under Insurance Memorandum Circular No. 9-2006, the amount of premium to be collected from micro-insurance policyholders should not be more than 10 percent of the current daily minimum wage rate in Metro Manila, or about P30 a day.

The circular also pegged the maximum amount of life insurance coverage at not more than 500 times the daily minimum wage rate, or about P150,000.

An MBA is also required to put up a guaranty fund of at least P5 million by the end of the year to be able to start or continue selling micro-insurance products. The amount should be increased yearly by 5 percent of gross premiums collected until the fund reaches an amount equivalent to 12.5 percent of the capitalization requirement for Filipino-owned life insurance companies.

The Insurance Commission earlier issued a directive increasing the capitalization requirement on Filipino-owned life and non-life insurance firms from the current P50 million to P75 million by the end of 2007. This should be increased by P25 million every year until it reaches P125 million in 2009, and to P175 million by 2010 and further to P250 million by 2011.

Escobillo said the lower amount of capitalization required of MBAs would help them operate head-on with regular insurance companies.

She noted that MBAs also enjoy exemption from documentary stamp tax, premium tax and corporate income tax, which regular insurance companies are subject to.

The insurance commissioner said that regulating the micro-insurance sector would go hand-in-hand with efforts to promote it, especially in the countryside. She said her office was preparing a nationwide roadshow intended to encourage low-income households to avail themselves of micro-insurance.

Funds get 5% of coal firm

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

US MUTUAL FUNDS FMR Corp. and Fidelity International Ltd. have acquired a 5-percent stake in coal mining firm Semirara Mining Corp.

In a beneficial ownership report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, FMR Corp. said its total shares in the company stood at 17.9 million as of Oct. 19.

FMR described the purchase as a "simple portfolio investment."

FMR also said that it had no plan to buy significantly more shares to take over control of the company.

A Semirara official, meanwhile, said FMR might have been lured to its shares since it was already trading at a discount of P19 a share.

Semirara is the country's largest coal producer.

National Power Corp. is its biggest customer.

FMR Corp., the legal name of Fidelity Investments, is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

Fidelity International, on the other hand, is based in Bermuda.

The Fidelity Group is reputedly the world's largest mutual fund group.

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Carmona, Cavite
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39 Residential Lots ~ LA 60-110 sqm
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CALOOCAN
Prop. 1 Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 650 sqm FA 584 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 48-D # 86 & 88-A, A. Del Mundo St. Grace Park,
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,409,900.00
Prop. 2 Res'l Lot LA 240 sqm
Blk18 L19 Along Coaster St., Bristonville Subd., Brgy 175 Camarin,
Minimum Bid Price: P 672,000.00

LAS PIÑAS
Prop. 3 Res'l Lot LA 241 sqm
Lot2 Blk2 Lakatan St., Golden Acres Subd., Brgy Almanza
Minimum Bid Price: P 602,500.00

MAKATI CITY
Prop. 4- Parking Slot Area 12 sqm
Slot #18 Basement 3 Biltmore Condo., 102 Aguirre St. Legaspi Vill.
Minimum Bid Price: P 450,000.00
Parking Slots 88 Corp Valero cor. Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Vill.
Prop. 5 - PS-1BP-13 Area 12 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 450,000.00
Prop. 6 - PS-1BP-16 Area 12 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 450,000.00
Comm'l Condo 3' Flr Valero Plaza (Cityland Condo. IV) No. 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Prop. 7 Unit 339 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 8 Unit 340 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 9 Unit 341 FA 30.88 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 10 Unit 342 FA 31.02 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 11 Unit 343 FA 29.76 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 12 Unit 344 FA 29.76 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 13 Unit 345 FA 31.02 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 14 Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 633 sqm FA 442 sqm
#1765 & 1767 Garcia St., (Reposo St.) San Miguel Village,
Minimum Bid Price: P 17,616,800.00
Prop. 15 Res'l Condo FA 211sqm
Lot1 Blk 2 Unit 201 Makati Prime City, St. Paul St., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,320,000.00
Prop. 16 Res'l Condo FA 42.90sqm
UnitC8-5F9 5/F Makati Prime City Condo Cluster 8 St. Paul St., San Antonio Vill
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,373,000.00
Prop. 17 - Comm'l Lot LA 478sqm
Lot4 Blk22 Kalayaan Ave. corner Kawit St., Brgy Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,604,000.00

MANILA
Prop. 18 -Res'l Condo FA110.05 sqm
Suite7-H Columbian Int'l Towers Condo, 500 Santol St., Sta. Mesa
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,311,000.00

MANDALUYONG
Parking Slot, AnkCondo #92 Sierra Madre St.,
Prop. 19 - Unit B FA 10.25 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 20 - Unit C FA 10.25 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 21 - Unit E FA 10.25 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 22 - Unit G FA 10.25 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 23 - Unit H FA 10.25 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 300,000.00
Prop. 24 - Unit K FA 12.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 350,000.00

PARAÑAQUE
Prop. 25 Res'l Lot LA 572 sqm
L2 Abelone St. Jaleville Subd. San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,690,000.00
Prop. 26 Res'l Condo FA 157.20 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot)
9' Flr. Chateau de Baie Condo. Roxas Boulevard cor. Airport Road Baclaran,
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,220,000.00

PASAY
Prop. 27 - Res'l Condo FA 41.75sqm
Unit B3 (Basement and Unit 3) ID. IPI Buendia Tower Condo., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: P 919,000.00
Prop. 28 - Res'l Lot LA 399 sqm
Lot 649-A Cunata Avenue
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,980,000.00

QUEZON CITY
Prop. 29 Res'l Lot LA 168 sqm
Lot 4-A-1 # 8 J. P. Rizal St., Manlag
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,016,000.00
Prop. 30 - Comm'l /Ind'l Lot w/ Improvement
LA2,401sqm # 114 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: P 10,928,000.00
Prop. 31 Res'l Lot LA 1,391sqm
Lot43-B Brgy Matandang Balara, Lino Dist.
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,400,000.00

SAN JUAN
Prop. 32 Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 255 sqm FA 365 sqm
#28 A Bonifacio St. Brgy. Kabayanan
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,393,000.00

METRO MANILA

SAN JUAN
Prop. 33 Comm'l Lot LA 352 sqm
Lot 3-A-1 A. Mendoza St., Formerly Paraiso St.)
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,315,000.00

LUZON

BATANGAS
Prop. 34Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 755 sqm
Lot 1122 Gen. Luna St. & Athenian Rd. Brgy Sabang, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price: P 12,080,000.00
Prop. 35 Res'l Lot LA 500 sqm
Lot7 Blk7 Palmridge Pointe, Phase 1, Brgy Balas, Talisay
Minimum Bid Price: P 936,000.00
Prop. 36 Res'l Lot LA 386 sqm
Lot4 Blk15 Palmridge Pointe, Phase 1 Brgy Balas, Talisay
Minimum Bid Price: P 802,880.00

BULACAN
Prop. 37 Res'l Lot LA146 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 1 Road Lot 4, Ayuki Subd. Brgy Binang 2nd & Turo, Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price: P 231,300.00
Prop. 38 Res'l Lot LA168 sqm
Lot6 Blk 2 along Mark St. & Lot 5 Blk 2 (Existing Rd.) Metrogate Complex, Brgy Saluysoy, Meycauayan
Minimum Bid Price: P 672,000.00
Prop. 39 Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 328 sqm FA 181 sqm
Lot53 Blk 22 Road Lot 1 & A Ricarte St., (Lot55-alley), Brgy Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte City
Minimum Bid Price: P 799,000.00
Prop. 40 Res'l Lot LA 2,117 sqm
Lot2280-B & Lot2981-C-13 Along Brgy. Road Brgy San Roque, Pandi
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,117,000.00
Prop. 41 Res'l w/ Improvement LA 2,611 sqm FA 1,319.04 sqm
Lot 3 & Lot 4453-L to N. Brgy. Bagbaguin, Sta. Maria
Minimum Bid Price: P 14,148,000.00

CAGAYAN
Prop. 42 Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 4,106 sqm FA 1,860 sqm
Lots 2442-A, 2442-B-2-A, 2436 & 2437 J. Luna Ext., Brgy Ugac Sur, Tuguegarao City
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,504,000.00

CAMARINES SUR
Prop. 43 - Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 600 sqm FA 660 sqm
L14 & 15 Blk 3 Soriano St.Villa Sorabella Subd., Concepcion Grande, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,590,000.00
Prop. 44 - Ind'l / Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 5,465 sqm
Lot1151 Pagdahicon Road, Mabolo, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,662,000.00
Prop. 45 - Comm'l. Lot LA 5,000sqm
Lot3-B-4-C Brgy Triangulo, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 16,200,000.00
Prop. 46 Res'l Lot LA 3,376 sqm
Lot318 CalauagSt.Bo.Liboton,Naga City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,860,000.00

CAVITE
Prop. 47 Res'l. Lot LA 160sqm
L10 Blk 15 Dona Rd., Tagaytay Country Homes Ph1. Brgy. Silang Crossing West, Tagaytay City
Minimum Bid Price: P 640,000.00
Res'l Lot St., Andrew Bend St., Charbel Subd. Sampaloc, Dasmariñas
Prop. 48 Lot 8 Blk 3 LA 158 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 442,000.00
Prop. 49 Lot 9 Blk 3 LA 171 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 479,000.00
Prop. 50 - Comm'l Lot LA 2,105sqm
Lot1-B Molino Rd cor. Macaria Ave. Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,793,000.00
Prop. 51 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 91sqm FA 32sqm L18 B4
Primerose Rd., MolinoParkhomes, Brgy Molino, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: P 452,000.00
Prop. 52 - Res'l Lot LA 54 sqm
Lot3 Blk2 ACM Woodstock Homes, Ph8, Brgy Alapan 1-A, Imus
Minimum Bid Price: P 369,000.00

LAGUNA
WITHDRAWN
WITHDRAWN
Prop. 55Res'l Lots LA 1,851.20sqm
Lot710-E Rizal Blvd Brgy. Pooc Sta Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,897,000.00
Prop. 56 Res'l Lot LA 1,000sqm
Lot 5 Blk 11 Himalayas St., Filinvest South Peak 2 Brgy San Antonio, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,800,000.00
Prop. 57 - Res'l Lot LA 1,982sqm
Lot3-A-1 Brgy San Lucas, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,878,000.00

LUZON

ILOCOS NORTE
Prop. 58 Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,010 sqm FA 607 sqm
Lot8753-A & 8753-C, Lot 8753-B Corner J.P. Rizal & P. Hernando Sts. & 26 De Agosto St., Brgy San Guillermo (Nuestra Señora Del Rosario) Laoag City
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,405,000.00

ISABELA
Prop. 59 Ind'l Lot LA 12,320 sqm
Lot9623-H Brgy Rd., Brgy Capirpiriwan (Formerly Bo. Malasin), Cordon
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,772,000.00
Prop. 60 Res'l Lot LA 982 sqm
Lot 2570 - B - 5 - A Old Provincial Rd And NIA Rd., Brgy Ipil, Echague
Minimum Bid Price: P 786,000.00
Prop. 61 Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 188 sqm FA 150 sqm
Lot 9232-C-2-A Cagayan Valley Rd. & Unnamed Rd., Brgy Villasis, Santiago City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,562,000.00
Prop. 62 Res'l Lot LA 650 sqm
Lot 1632-A-2 Road-Right-Of-Way Brgy Batal Santiago City
Minimum Bid Price: P 905,000.00
Prop. 63 Res'l Lot LA 105 sqm
Lot 34 Blk 9 Road Lot 9, Rizal Village Brgy Rizal, Santiago City
Minimum Bid Price: P 527,000.00

NUEVA ECIJA
Prop. 64 Agri / Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA1,436sqm FA96sqm
Lot 47-A-4-F Along road-right-of-way Brgy San Pascual, Talavera.
Minimum Bid Price: P 883,000.00
Prop. 65Agri /Ind'l Lot w/ Improvement LA56,180sqm FA10,844sqm
Lot 128 & 130 (Tyson Poultry Farm) Brgy Pangatian Cabanatuan
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,566,000.00

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Prop. 66 Agri Lot LA 41,163 sqm
Lot1204 Sitio Niyayos 2, Brgy New Dagupan Calintaan
Minimum Bid Price: P 468,000.00
Agri Lots Sitio Tutinong, Brgy Sto Niño, Sablayan
Prop. 67 Lot1941 LA 800 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00
Prop. 68 Lot1942 LA 800 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00
Prop. 69 Lot1943 LA 800 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00

PANGASINAN
Prop. 70 - Agri Lot LA 23,014 sqm
Lots 1990, 1912, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1943, 1944, 1945 Salsay District, Brgy Bolosan, Dagupan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,301,000.00
Prop. 71 - Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,045 sqm FA 988 sqm
Lot 149 - C Along Alexander St. & Brgy.Rd., Brgy.Poblacion, UrdanetaCity
Minimum Bid Price: P 12,999,000.00
Prop. 72 - Ind'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 2,242 sqm
Lot # 8291 Gonzales St., Brgy Bonuan Boquig, Dagupan City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,412,100.00

QUEZON PROVINCE
Prop. 73 Res'l Lot LA 431 sqm
Lot 30 Blk 4 Road Lot 9, Puerto del Mar Subd Ph1, Brgy Bocohan Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,078,000.00
Res'l Lots Road Lot 25 Brgy Sta. Catalina Norte, Candelaria
Prop. 74 Lot 6 LA 186 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 56,000.00
Prop. 75 Lot 12 LA 186 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 56,000.00
Res'l Lots, Road Lot 40 Brgy Sta. Catalina Norte, Candelaria
Prop. 76 Lot 6 LA 145 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 43,500.00
Prop. 77 Lot 7 LA 145 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 43,500.00
Prop. 78 - Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 220 sqm Lot2 Blk1 Brgy. Road, Brgy Pahinga Norte, Candelaria
Minimum Bid Price: P 66,000.00
Prop. 79 - Res'l Lot LA 220 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 2 Brgy. Road, Brgy Pahinga Norte, Candelaria
Minimum Bid Price: P 88,000.00
Prop. 80 Res'l Lot LA 220 sqm
Lot15 Blk2 Along Barangay Road Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria
Minimum Bid Price: P 72,332.00
Prop. 81 Res'l Lots LA 4,431sqm
Lot2044 & 2045,Lot -2064-B-2-B-1 to 3, Nat'l Road, Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 11,209,050.00
Prop. 82 Res'l Lot LA 8,477 sqm
Lot 1182-C Along Diversion Road Brgy. Isabang, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,148,853.00
Prop. 83 Res'l Lot LA 8,652 sqm
Lot 1183 Along Diversion Road, Brgy. Isabang, Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,255,147.00
Prop. 84 Res'l Lot LA 250 sqm
L1 B2 Brgy Gulang-gulang, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 520,000.00
Prop. 85 Res'l Lot LA 180 sqm
L17 B3 Brgy Gulang-gulang, LucenaCity
Minimum Bid Price: P 360,000.00

LUZON

QUEZON PROVINCE
Prop. 86 Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 480 sqm FA 592 sqm
501 (Lot 2 & 3 Blk 11) Purok Matahimik, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,688,000.00
Prop. 87 Comm'l Lot LA 5,074sqm
Lots 2305-B & 2306-A-1-F Quezon Ave., Brgy 8, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 14,685,000.00
Prop. 88 - Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,506 sqm
Lot 2 Nat'l Rd. Brgy Iyam, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,265,000.00
Prop. 89 Res'l Lot LA 150 sqm
Lot25 Blk1 Sitio Bagong Pook, Brgy Lagalag, Tiaong
Minimum Bid Price: P 30,000.00
Prop. 90 Res'l Lot LA 150 sqm
Lot26 Blk1 Sitio Bagong Pook, Brgy Lagalag, Tiaong
Minimum Bid Price: P 30,000.00
Prop. 91 Res'l Lot LA 258 sqm
Lot2 Blk2 Corner of Rd. Lot 1 & Rd. Lot 2 Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria
Minimum Bid Price: P 75,401.00
Prop. 92 Res'l Lot LA 261 sqm
L17 Blk2 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Pahinga Norte, Candelaria
Minimum Bid Price: P 88,400.00

RIZAL
Prop. 93 - Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 143 sqm FA 233.50 sqm
No 103 Kamagong St., Madera Subd., Brgy San Andres, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,069,000.00
Prop. 94 Res'l Lot LA 346 sqm
Lot 19 Block 2 Birchwood St. Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,051,840.00
Prop. 95 Res'l Lot LA 459 sqm
Lot 27 Block 4 Peakwood St. Cottonwood Heights, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,395,360.00
Res'l Lot, San Remo St., Hills of Mata Alta, Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City
Prop. 96 - Lot 66 Blk 9 LA 320 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 912,800.00
Prop. 97 - Lot 83 Blk 9 LA 313 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 876,400.00
Prop. 98 - Lot 84 Blk 9 LA 357 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 999,600.00
Prop. 99 Res'l Lot LA 1,135 sqm
L4 Blk7-A Birmingham & Clifton Sts., Town & Country Estates, Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,224,000.00
Prop. 100 Res'l Lot LA 610 sqm
L3 Blk8 Rd. Lot18 Montevista Heights Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,317,600.00
Prop. 101 Agri Lot LA 46,989sqm
Lot1 Brgy San Jose, Baras
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,382,800.00
Prop. 102 Agri Lot LA 5,551 sqm
Lot1-C Sitio Maynipay, Brgy. San Salvador, Baras
Minimum Bid Price: P 396,000.00

SORSOGON
Prop. 103 - Res'l Lot LA 549 sqm
Lot2046 Brgy Bibincahan, SorsogonCity
Minimum Bid Price: P 82,000.00

TARLAC
Prop. 104 Ind'l Lot LA 18,432 sqm
Lot 1-B Romulo Highway Brgy San Juan de Mata & Dolores
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,147,000.00
Prop. 105 Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 712 sqm FA 637 sqm
114 Rosa St., Villa Solmon Subd., Brgy Salapungan
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,416,550.00

VISAYAS

AKLAN
Prop. 106 Res'l Lot LA 6,058sqm
Along National Rd. & Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Caticlan, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 10,507,500.00
Prop. 107 Comm'l / Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 460.50 sqm FA 120sqm
Lot 3460-F-1-A Roxas Ave. Ext., Bo. Andagao, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,758,000.00
Prop. 108 Comm'l Lot LA 287sqm
Along Brgy. Rd Brgy. CaticlanProper, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,286,000.00
Prop. 109-Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 167 sqm FA 150 sqm
Lot 3460-E-7-B road-right-of-way, Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,696,000.00
Prop. 110 Res'l Lot LA 777 sqm
Lot 3069-A Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 622,000.00
Prop. 111 Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 500 sqm FA 256 sqm
Lot 5-A-4-B-1 (Queen's Inn Hotel) Mucadam Rd Brgy New Buswang Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 10,604,000.00

VISAYAS

AKLAN
Prop. 112Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 649 sqm FA 575 sqm
Lot 3611 & 3612 cor. Maming St. (Nat'l Rd) & Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Caticlan, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,343,500.00
Prop. 113 - Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,518 sqm FA 460 sqm
Lot 2 Capnaro St., Brgy. Estancia Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,034,500.00
Prop. 114 - Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 547 sqm
Lot1107-C Nat'l. Highway (Osmeña Ave.) Brgy. Estancia Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,268,000.00
Prop. 115 - Agro-Res'l. Lot LA 4,688 sqm Lot 3776 Interior Of Brgy Caticlan Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,124,800.00

CAPIZ
Prop. 116- Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,500 sqm
Lot 1865-A 1 Along Nat'l Rd (Roxas Ave.) Km 1 Brgy. Lawaan, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,034,000.00
Res'l Lots Bo. Andres Bonifacio RoxasCity
Prop. 117-Lot 956-B-2-D LA 195sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 52,019.85
Prop. 118-Lot 956-B-2-E LA 204sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 55,048.45
Prop. 119-Lot 956-B-2-F LA 273sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 73,667.78
Prop. 120-Lot 956-B-2-G LA 273sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 73,667.78
Prop. 121 -Lot 956-B-2-H LA219sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 59,096.13

ILOILO
Prop. 122 Res'l / Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 761sqm FA 771sqm
Lot6-A & Lot5 Blk1 Jaro-Leganes Prov. Rd. Brgy Quintin Salas, Jaro
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,254,800.00
Prop. 123 Res'l Lot LA 5,536 sqm
Lot 934-B 3 Molo-Arevalo Blvd., Brgy. Sto. Niño Sur Arevalo
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,136,400.00
Prop. 124 Comm'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,785 sqm FA 831 sqm
Lot159-B Jocson St. (formerly San Jose St.), Brgy. San Jose Arevalo
Minimum Bid Price: P 10,164,600.00
Prop. 125Res'l Lot LA 13,144sqm
Lot4255 Along Old Provincial Road, Poblacion Ilawod, Calinog
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,972,600.00
Prop. 126 Res'l Lot LA 6,521 sqm
Lot4432-A-5-1-A-3-E Along Rizal St., Brgy. Poblacion Ilaya, Calinog
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,026,000.00

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Res'l Lots, Street Lot 6 & Alley 3, Purok Magbinuligay, Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City
Prop. 127 - Lot 9 Blk 21 LA 651 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 325,500.00
Prop. 128 - Lot 10 Blk 21 LA 651 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 325,500.00
Prop. 129 - Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 997 sqm FA 250 sqm
Lot1 Blk10 cor Kamatal Drive & unnamed Subd. Rd. Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,932,050.00
Prop. 130 - Comm'l Lot LA 600 sqm
Lot 4-A along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy Singcang- Airport, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,500,000.00
Prop. 131 - Comm'l Lot LA 730 sqm
Lot 4-B along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy Singcang- Airport, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,475,000.00
Prop. 132- Agri Lot LA 45,282 sqm
2138-D Along Hacienda Road, Brgy. Ayungon, Bago City,
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,358,000.00
Prop. 133 - Comm'l Lot LA 775sqm
Lot61-BAlong Rizal and Magallanes Sts. Brgy. 4, Zone III, Hinigaran
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,550,000.00

MINDANAO

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Prop. 134 Agri Lot LA 228,563sqm
Lot 21406 Within Sitio Upper Dolawan, Brgy Lumbia, Cagayan De Oro City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,714,000.00

DAVAO CITY
Comm'l. Lots, 8th Ave. & Solman & Leon Garcia Sts., Brgy Agdao
Prop. 135 - Lot 2-B LA 916 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 136 - Lot 2-C LA 916 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 137 - Lot 2-D-1 LA 450 sqm
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,600,000.00

MISAMIS ORIENTAL
Prop. 138 Res'l Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,804sqm Lot6390 Along Nat'l Highway, Iponan, Brgy. Barra, Opol
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,076,000.00

AUCTION MANAGER CENTURY PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT, INC.
MALU: (0915)789-0650, MUFFET: (0915)412-5196, SOL: (0910)306-7444
SHOW MONEY P25,000.00 ~ Per Property
HOTLINE NUMBERS: (02)819-7377; (02)819-7241 loc 8290

ALL PROPERTIES ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THE BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW ANY PROPERTY BEFORE THE AUCTION. INADVERTENT MISPRINTS SHALL NOT ALTER THE PROPERTY'S FACTUAL CONDITION OR SHALL THEY BE DEEMED AS MISREPRESENTATION OF THE PROPERTY. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING SPACE.

UCPB

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 25, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	100,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	43	44.5	43	44	2,571,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61	64	61	63	4,811,900
China Banking Corp.	670	675	660	675	10,320
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	12,050,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	68.5	71	68.5	70.5	97,300
Philippine National Bank	35	35.5	35	35	55,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.5	18	18.5	15,800
Security Bank Corp.	55	59	55	59	303,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	46	45.5	46	2,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.85	4.9	4.75	4.8	1,362,000
First Abacus Financial	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1600	1575	1595	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	411,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1945	1945	1945	1945	120
Ivantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	2,354,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	53	55.5	53	55.5	1,628,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51.5	53	51.5	53	887,000
Manila Electric Co. A	27.5	27.5	27	27	221,300
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	31.5	31.5	1,666,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.2	8,235,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	9,308,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.04	1.08	1.02	1.02	400,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	7,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22	22	21.75	21.75	46,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41	42.5	41	42	971,900
Pancake House, Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	9,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	672,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	333,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	160,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	66	66.5	99,200
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	75	73.5	74.5	2,112,600
Tanduay Holdings, Inc.	2	2	2	2	12,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	20.25	19.25	20	5,487,200
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.46	0.51	0.44	0.51	57,900,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.7	3	2.7	3	5,424,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	15,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	2,242,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.38	1,082,000
Supercity Rlty Dev. Corp.	-	-	-	-	-
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.1	5.6	5	5.2	2,639,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	100,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	130,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.72	0.73	52,280,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.175	12,050,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	20,000
Atok-Big Wedge. Inc. B	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	1,000
Ayala Corp.	495	515	495	500	559,200
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.7	6	5.7	6	903,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.04	0.044	0.039	0.043	228,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	569,000
APC Group Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	6,350,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	190,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.05	3.05	95,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.16	1.24	1.16	1.24	53,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	8.4	9	8.4	9	49,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.44	11,152,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.85	1,558,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.68	170,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.8	1,412,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.82	1,012,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	7.9	8.1	7.9	8.1	3,062,000
Keppel Holdings	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	400,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.32	1,010,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.46	2.5	2.24	2.3	211,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.78	1.86	1.76	1.8	17,623,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	30,600,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	8,450,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.84	6,880,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.135	8,200,000
SM Investments Corp.	272.5	282.5	272.5	280	723,380
South China Resources Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	50,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.14	2,050,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.5	15	14.5	15	8,033,800
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	17,315,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.36	1.36	47,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	21,070,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.2	3.05	3.2	992,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.92	2	1.92	2	140,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	2	2	2	2	35,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.32	0.28	0.29	18,810,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	12,120,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	709,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	12,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.8	23,757,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.14	310,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	320,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	59,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.18	1.3	1.18	1.3	58,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	10,300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.86	1,330,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.16	2.22	2.16	2.22	237,838,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.05	3.05	2.65	2.7	2,546,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	1,170,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	12,550,000
Robinsons Land Corp	14.25	14.75	14	14.5	2,462,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	6,750,000
SM Development Corp.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.86	308,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.7	9.1	8.7	9	29,247,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	130,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	4,700,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.75	20.25	19.75	20.25	570,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	330,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.58	13,799,000
Globe Telecom Inc	1110	1135	1110	1135	47,530
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.1	12,455,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2280	2290	2280	2285	302,980
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	40,400,000
Ionics Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.046	0.046	700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	16,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	25,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	205,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4	4	25,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	20	20.5	20	20	481,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	200,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	903,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.26	2.34	2.26	2.32	14,336,000
Premiere Ent. Prod., Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	510,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	45,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.52	1,350,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	3	3	2.95	2.95	87,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	671,000
Paxys Inc.	14	14.75	14	14.25	1,318,800
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.6	1.4	1.4	60,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	1,553,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.7	692,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	87,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8.1	7.9	8	2,326,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,680,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,220,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	28,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	51,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	183,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.75	3.75	14,378,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19	19.25	19	19	1,081,300
United Paragon Mining Co	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	2,080,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	970,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	3,340,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	22,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.96	0.97	0.94	0.97	1,150,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	310,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10	9.9	10	180,000

CURRENCIES

October 25, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.795862	1.000000	50.1360
Japan	Yen	0.006670	0.008381	0.4202
United Kingdom	Pound	1.491285	1.873800	93.9448
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102278	0.128512	6.4431
Switzerland	Franc	0.628345	0.789515	39.5831
Canada	Dollar	0.706679	0.887942	44.5179
Singapore	Dollar	0.505437	0.635082	31.8405
Australia	Dollar	0.603565	0.758380	38.0221
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.111151	2.652661	132.9938
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212456	0.266951	13.3839
Brunei	Dollar	0.503838	0.633072	31.7397
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021394	0.026882	1.3478
UAE	Dirham	0.216750	0.272346	13.6543
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.256500	62.9959
Argentina	Peso	0.257769	0.323887	16.2384
Brazil	Real	0.371534	0.466832	23.4051
Denmark	Kroner	0.134153	0.168563	8.4511
India	Rupee	0.017616	0.022134	1.1097
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216620	0.272183	13.6462
Mexico	New Peso	0.073629	0.092515	4.6383
New Zealand	Dollar	0.527830	0.663218	33.2511
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013137	0.016507	0.8276
South Africa	Rand	0.103466	0.130005	6.5179
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.001044	0.0523
Sweden	Kroner	0.108719	0.136606	6.8489
Syria	Pound	0.015331	0.019264	0.9658
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023893	0.030021	1.5051

Stricter criteria set for power projects seeking tax breaks

Toll way, transpo, bulk water projects may also be covered

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has adopted a policy that will ensure that tax breaks given to power projects will translate to lower electricity rates.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said proponents of power projects would now have to show that consumers would benefit from lower costs to qualify for income tax holidays.

"This will be determined through appropriate presentations of power supply contracts that investors can attach to their applications," Hernandez said.

He said the new policy was a departure from the previous norm of automatically granting tax breaks to build-operate-transfer power projects that cost at least P1 billion.

Hernandez said the BOI was also studying the possibility of using the same criteria in evaluating BOT projects in the areas of infrastructure, transportation and bulk water.

He said this was in response to requests from a number of investors for the review of their applications for registration. Investors whose projects were approved for BOI registration without tax perks have asked the agency to reconsider their status, believing they were entitled to tax breaks.

Sources said some of these firms included Lapanday Packaging, Philippine Gaming Management, Igloo Storage, Ceres Homes, Lepanto Consolidated Mining and GNPower.

The projects involved are related to food packaging, gaming and entertainment, low-cost mass housing, cold storage facilities, copper extraction and power generation—the last two of which were worth P3 billion and P43.9 billion, respectively.

The requests came in the wake of a spate of project registrations without tax perks following an agreement between the trade and finance departments that the latter could recommend whether or not to grant ITH to investors. This arrangement is aimed at resolving a disagreement between the two departments on whether tax breaks given to investors are beneficial to the country considering the huge losses in potential government revenue arising from the incentive scheme.

Trade officials believe tax perks are key in attracting investments while finance officials think these are responsible for billions of pesos in foregone revenue and tax leaks.

Last July, trade officials said registration with the BOI no longer automatically meant the granting of tax perks to investors as Malacañang pushed for efforts toward fiscal consolidation.

Hotel operators in expansion mode

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOTEL OPERATORS ARE AGgressively expanding their operations in the Philippines as they continue to be upbeat on the growth of tourism in the country, experts said during a Good News Kapihan at the M Café in Makati yesterday.

HSAI Raintree, operator of Discovery Hotels in the country, is teaming up with property developer Misibis Realty group to put up resort hotels and entertainment centers in the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon.

Misibis Realty will be the developer while Raintree will be in charge of the operations and management of the hotels.

"Bicol has a lot to offer. There are airports and roads and it has a rich historical heritage but it lacks five-star tourist facilities," HSAI Raintree president Annabella Wisniewski said.

She said Misibis Realty would develop an island resort with a five-star hotel in Barangay Misibis north of Albay province.

The first phase of the project, which will open by 2008, covers a 48-hectare property that will house 40 villas, a 75-room resort hotel, a spa village and swimming pool.

In five to six years, the island resort will expand to 200-400 ha.

The partners are also planning a small resort hotel on a 4-hectare lot in Donsol, Sorsogon province.

In the meantime, the Discovery Hotels Group is set to launch "Discovery Shores," a five-star hotel in Boracay in February.

Boracay Chamber of Commerce president Charlie Uy said tourists arrivals in Boracay were expected to grow to 800,000 this year from 500,000 last year.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Balagtas, Batangas City
Tel. No. 043-7233325/043-4021878
Fax No. 043-7230449/043-4020189
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address: nfaro4_rbac@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Regional Office IV, with its official address at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sack manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of brand new white polypropylene empty sack (MTS) for Iron Fortified Rice as indicated below:

EMPTY SACK TYPE	QUANTITY (PIECES)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	DELIVERY POINT
Rice (PPMG50)	217,227	P2,389,500.00	NFA Whse, Balagtas, Batangas City

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 20 - Nov. 06, 2006 *(excl. Sat., Sun. & Holidays)*
2. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 09, 2006 at 10:00 AM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	Nov. 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM
4. Bid Evaluation	Nov. 27 - Dec. 11, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	Dec. 12-26, 2006
6. Notice of Award	January 08, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 to the National Food Authority's Cashier.

The mode of payment shall be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders, whatsoever.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) TOMAS R. ESCAREZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 26, 2006)

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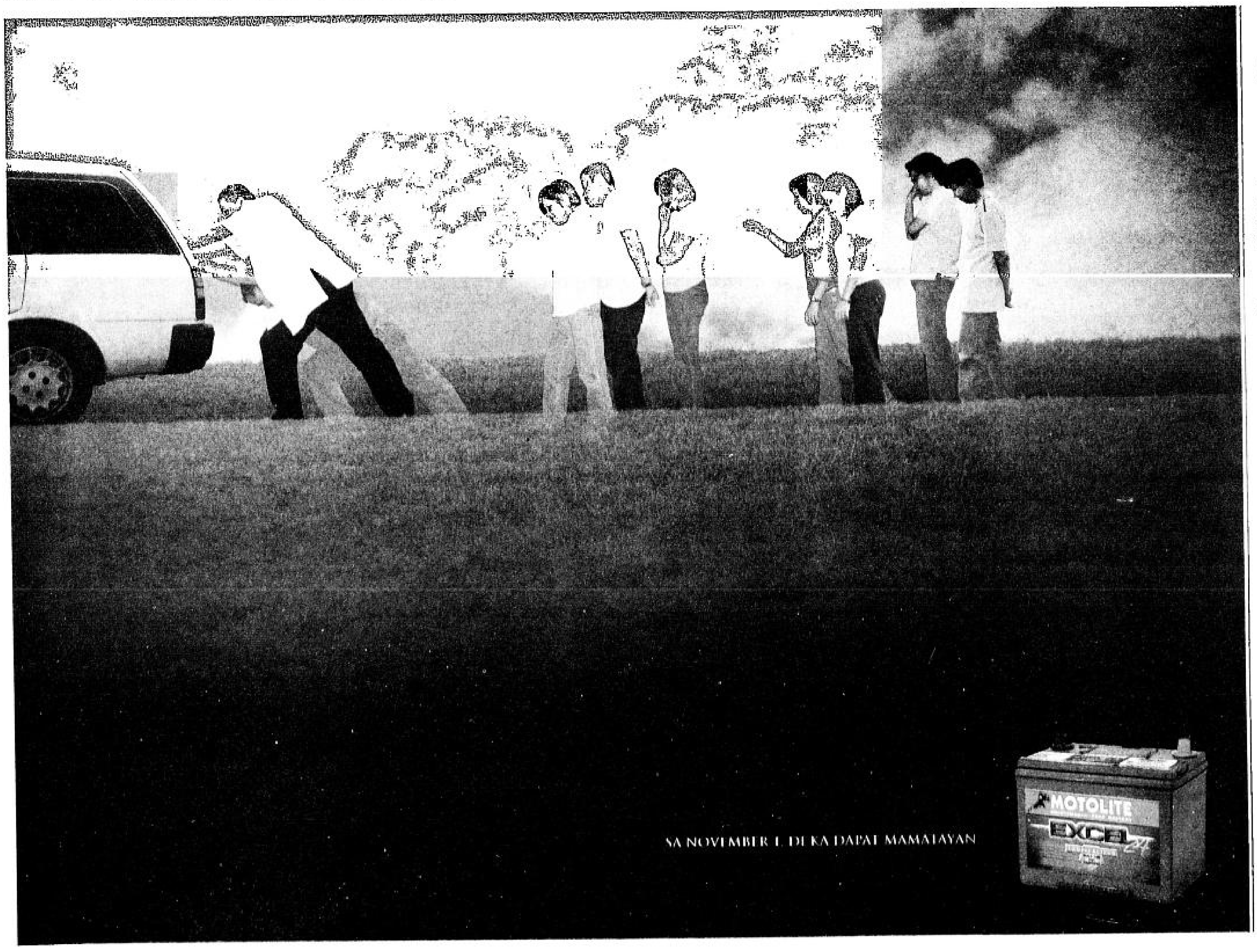
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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Nueva Vizcaya
Municipality of Solano

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Rebid

Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building Project

Design and Construct/Build Scheme

The Municipality of Solano, by virtue of a duly approved Sanggunian Bayan Resolution, has authorized the Honorable Mayor Santiago O. Dickson to secure a loan from the Lank Bank of the Philippines for the payment under the contract: **Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building – DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT/BUILD SCHEME.**

The Municipality of Solano intends to apply the sum of **SIXTY FIVE MILLION PESOS** (P65,000,000) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) as payments under the contract for the Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Municipality of Solano through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now calls for the submission of the Letter of Intents (LOIs) from potential Proponents/Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Design, Site Development and Construction of the Proposed New Solano Public/Commercial Market Annex Building Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligbility Documents. Interested Proponents/Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date scheduled below at the BAC Secretariat, Municipal General Services Office, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya and secure the Eligibility Documents and General Project Information/Terms of Reference for the Project therefrom, upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) and Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) respectively. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on November 22, 2006 5:00 PM at the Municipal General Services Office, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Only those Proponents/Bidders passing the eligibility check and whose Architectural Plans and Outline Specifications passed the minimum design standards, performance and specifications criteria will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR – A) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, only to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Proponents/Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Proponent/Bidder who was determined as such during the post-qualification.

SCHEDULE OF PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES		
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	November 9 – 13, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligbility Forms	November 14 – 17, 2006
3.	Receipt of Eligbility Requirements	November 20 – 22, 2006
4.	Notice of Results of Eligbility Check	November 27, 2006
5.	Issuance of Term of Reference and GPI	November 28 – 30, 2006
6.	Technical Conference /Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2006
7.	Submission of Architectural Design	December 15, 2006
8.	Result for the selection of Architectural Design	December 21, 2006
9.	Issuance of Bid Documents	December 28 – 29, 2006
10.	Supplemental Bid Bulletin	January 3, 2007
11.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	January 22, 2007
12.	Evaluation of Lowest Calculated Bid	January 23 – 25, 2007
13.	Post-qualification	January 26 – February 2, 2007
14.	Resolution of Award	February 5, 2007

Interested Proponents/Bidders may secure the eligibility documents with the required fee and submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents with the corresponding copy of the original receipt (O.R.) of its purchase to the BAC Secretariat on or before the date scheduled. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Proponents/Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Proponents/Bidders.

Interested eligible Proponents/Bidders may obtain further information from the Municipal Government of Solano and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BAC Secretariat, Municipal General Services Office, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM of December 28-29, 2006

Eligible Proponents/Bidders must submit their Architectural Plans and Outline Specifications at the BAC Secretariat as scheduled.

The Municipal Government of Solano will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Proponents/Bidders as scheduled on December 1, 2006, 9:00 AM, at the Function Room, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Proponents/Bidders that passed the eligibility check and the minimum architectural plans design and outline specifications, design criteria, on the date as scheduled and upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Proponent/Bidder or his duly authorized representative as scheduled.

Eligible Proponents/Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before January 22, 2007 at 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on January 22, 2007 10:00 AM at the Function Room, New Municipal Hall, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address mentioned below as scheduled.

Proponent's/Bidders must be willing to accept payments in the form of cash, bonds and other forms of financial instruments and/or long-term securities, and must be capable of undertaking the project either on a Semi-Turn-Key or Turn-Keys basis

The required number of days to complete the works is 360 calendar days

The Municipality of Solano reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Proponents/Bidders.

Waiver: The prospective bidder agrees and binds itself to abide by the final decision of the members of the BAC and further waives any legal action or claims against the LGU of Solano pertaining to the project now and the future.

BAC Chairman	MR. ARNEL G. DOMINCEL
Name of Office	Municipal General Services Office
Office Address	New Municipal Hall, Brgy. Roxas, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax Number	(078) 326-5992

Signature of the BAC Chairman or
Authorized Representative of the
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PHELIA INTERNATIONAL CORP. 63 Don Vicente St., Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Diliman, Q.C.	Won Bae Bong	Operation Manager
RAKSO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, INC. G/F All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Tae Won Kim	Design Manager
RAKSO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, INC. All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Yeung Deok Yoo	Web Developer
FLUOR DANIEL, INC.-PHILIPPINES 3/F, Asian Star Bldg., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Joseph Patrick Mac Inerney	Principal Design Engineer
MYCOM PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 3/F, MRDC Bldg., No. 85 Sen. G. Puyat Ave., Palanan, Makati City	Nobuyuki Jitosho	Managing Director
ZTE CORPORATION 25/F, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. G. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Yueming Zhao	Engineer
CHIC HAIR BEAUTY SALON Unit 101B Continental Court Condo # 47 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	Wonbeom Park	Marketing Officer
CHIC HAIR BEAUTY SALON Unit 101B Continental Court Condo # 47 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	So Youn Choi	Beauty Consultant
HWANG GOONG ENTERTAINMENT CORP. 77 Alabang-Zapote Rd., Pamplona I, Las Piñas City	Jung Il Bae	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 26, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Chemical Dosing Pump under FGJ 60892
Approved Budget PHP 5,725,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** starting **October 26, 2006**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 8, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management's Office Wall Clock Time) of November 30, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Oct. 26, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **South China Resources, Inc.** (formerly South China Petroleum & Exploration, Inc.) has moved to a new address:

3/F Low Rise Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.,
Makati City

We can be reached thru the following numbers:

Tel. No.: (632) 892-2049
Telefax No.: (632) 812-2383

(PDI - Oct. 23 to 27, Oct. 30 to 31, & Nov. 1 to 3, 2006)

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Month-long celebration of Up Close and Personal

FOUR SUCCESSFUL YEARS SINCE MILLICENT PRODUCTIONS INC produced its television program Up Close and Personal with Marissa del Mar, show every Wednesday, 10 p.m. on IBC 13. Up Close and Personal… is a telemagazine on people, places and events and its objective is to show the lighter side of life through success and heartwarming stories hosted by no less than Ms. Marissa del Mar (Marissa del Mar is nominated as Best Public Affairs Program Host by the 2006 PMPC Star Awards for TV and Up Close and Personal is nominated as Best Public Affairs Program by the same award giving body).

Millicent Productions also co-produced the weekly-radio program *Mismo!* Marissa del Mar live, Saturday, 4:30-5:30 pm on DWIZ 882 kHz now on its 2nd season, a magazine-on-radio and a public service program that undertakes different issues on society, individuals, events and entertains problems of the less-privilege "*kababayans*" who needs attention and advises.

As a way of saying thank you to their televiewers on their 4th year in the business Millicent Productions Inc will feature distinguished personalities and special events on Up Close and Personal, thus include Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita (aired last night Oct. 18, episode), who talked candidly about his role as the Executive Secretary of the President of the Philippines on the first part of his two-part episode, followed by Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso (Oct. 25) who talked about the Metro Rail Transit and its function, "Undas Special" (Nov. 1) and the Fourth Year Anniversary and birthday celebration of Marissa del Mar (Nov. 8), all Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on IBC 13.

Millicent Productions fourth year anniversary will be on Oct. 26 at the Diamond Ballroom, Grand Ballroom and expected guest will be from different sectors of the government, business, sponsors, press people and friends who contributed to the success of the program.

DEL MAR AND ERMITA

OBITUARIES

Luisa Reyes Mayo

of Lipa City

peacefully joined our Creator on October 24, 2006

Her bereaved nieces and nephews, **Tess, Sandro, Precy, Mario, Cely, Cory, Opy** and **Khoo**, grandchildren **Marianne, Kathrina, Alexis, Paul, Jennifer, Gerard** and **Katherine** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the San Sebastian Lipa City Cathedral Mortuary.

Interment will be on Friday, October 27, 2006 at the Lipa City Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dr. CORAZON FABICO AGATEP, Ph.D.

June 29, 1924 – October 2, 2006

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rights and memorial services and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during our moments of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for her eternal repose in Heaven.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life." —John 3:16

Ma. Anna Soliongco Garcia

(July 02, 1956 - October 23, 2006)

Her husband Guillermo III, sons Jose Miguel & Juan Gabriel,
and all her relatives request prayers
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Viewing will be at the Claret Church,
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
Mahinhin St., UP Village Quezon City.

Interment will be in the morning of Friday, October 27, 2006.

TITO C. BAGALOYOS

A Manager of B. Braun Medical Supplies, Inc.

Died in the grace of our Lord on October 20, 2006 at the age of 48.

He is survived by his parents, **Sergio Bagaloyos, Sr. & Teresita Bagaloyos;** his brothers and sisters: **Sergio. Jr., Pio, Ambrosio, Cesar, Israel, Dina** and **Nilda;** in-laws: **Ruth, Judith, Mario, Eleanor,** and **Jennifer;** his nephews and nieces: **Elsar, Cesar Jr., Shara Rose, Maureen Therese, Patrick Pio, Michelle, Ana, BJ, Marion, Monique, Ken** and **Kyle.**

His body now lies in state at Gamalinda Funeral Homes in Ozamis City.

Interment will be on October 28, 2006 at 1:00 pm at Mount Malindang Memorial Garden, Ozamis City.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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Supreme Court of the Philippines A2
National Food Authority .... A8, B5 & B8

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We, the Family and Loved ones of the late

Roberto "Bob" Juan y Uyboco

Who returned to his Creator on October 20, 2006
At the age of 58

Request the pious readers to pray for
the eternal repose of his soul

Mama, Radi and Lay
Christian "Chichi" Juan, Zarah *and* ***Baba***
Tina, Dave, David Robert, Isabella *and* ***Gabby***
Rina, George *and* ***Isabella***
Robert "Rob" Juan
Xian *and* ***Isella***
Lenlen, Ana, Tessie
Bing, Pat, Natalie, Liz, George
Rick *and* ***Cilla***
Chit, Tessy, Beth, Vic, Mina, Sonny *and* ***Nanding***

"Prayers are not said with the mouth, they are in the mind."
– Bob Juan

The Members of the Board of

M.D. Juan Ent. Co. Inc.

and

Northstar Ind. Mfg. Co., Inc.

Announce with great sorrow the demise of

Roberto " Bob" Juan y Uyboco

We will appreciate a donation to the Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish
C. Raymundo Ave. Caniogan, Pasig City
c/o Asia United Bank
Bank Account Name: RCBP Sta. Clara Parish
Bank Acct. No.: 01501001299-5

Acknowledgment to be issued

The Members of the Board and Franchisees

of

Laundromatic Corp.

announce with great sorrow the demise of our dearest

"Sir Bob" Juan

---

a beautiful farewell......

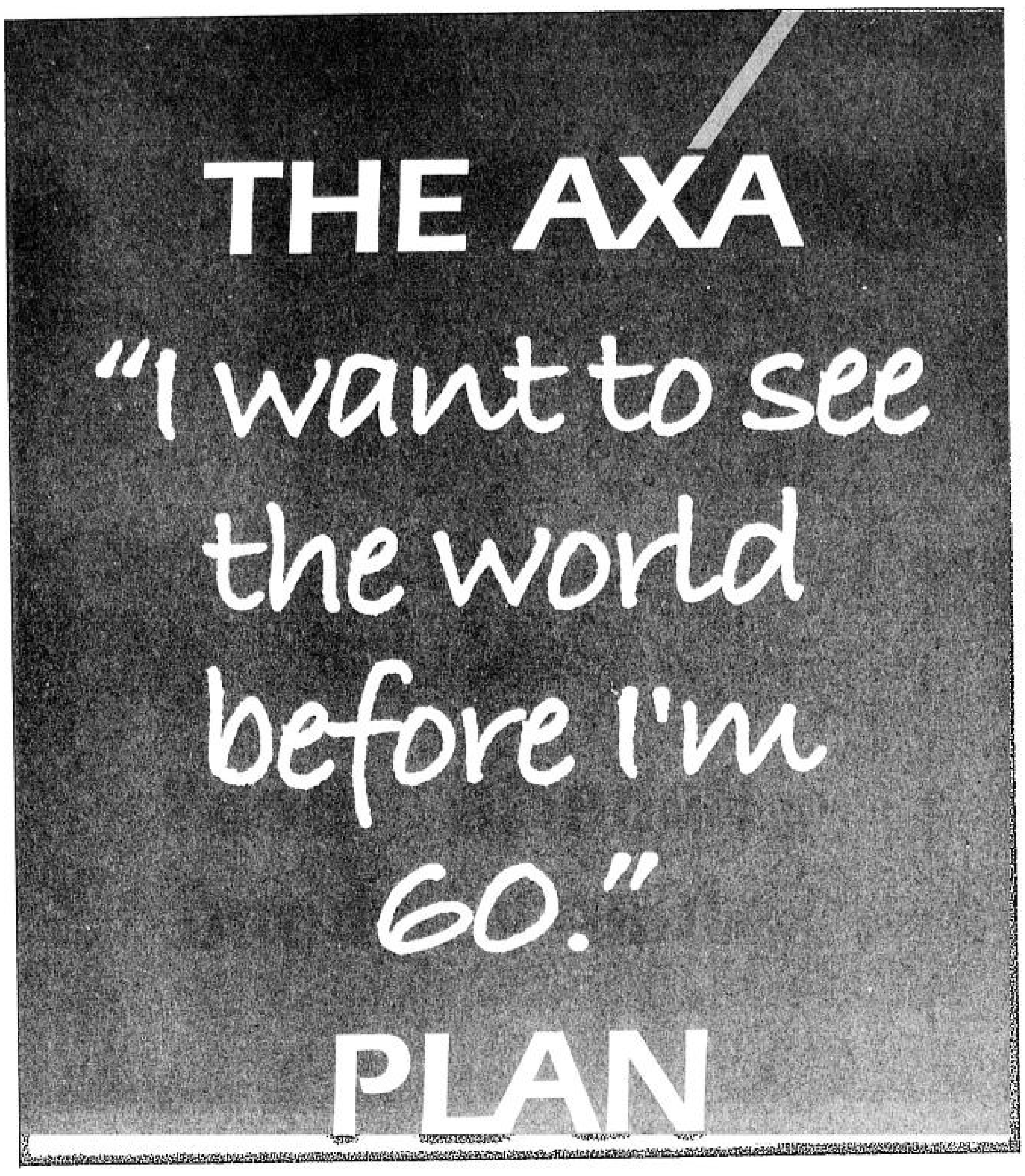
Tessy and Wolfi

We trust you will rest in peace.

CHINESISCHE WEISHEIT

Wer andere erkennt, ist gelehrt.
Wer sich selbst erkennt, ist weise.
Wer andere besiegt, hat Muskelkraft.
Wer sich selbst besiegt, ist stark.
Wer zufrieden ist, ist reich.
Wer seine Mitte nicht verliert,
ist unueberwindlich.

LAO-TSE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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Republic of the Philippines
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

RO10-2007
Contract for the Supply of
Security Services CY-2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Food Authority, Region 10***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites security agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Contracts for the Supply of Security Services for NFA Region 10
Location	Office, warehouse structures and installations within the jurisdiction of NFA-Region 10 (NFA-Misamis Oriental/Cagayan de Oro City/Camiguin, Bukidnon and Lanao Norte)
Brief Description	Contract involves the supply of security services for CY 2007 to provinces under operational jurisdiction of NFA Region 10 - Northern Mindanao
Contract Duration	January 2007 - December 31, 2007
Delivery Period	January 2007 - December 31, 2007

CONTRACT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF GUARDS	MONTHLY RATE PER GUARD	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1.	Misamis Oriental/ Cagayan de Oro City/ Camiguin	30 4	P 12,367.58 P11,876.71	P 5,022,410.88
2.	Bukidnon	31	P 12,122.14	P 4,509,436 08
3.	Lanao Norte	13	P 12,367.58	P 1,929,342.48

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding and complemented with key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is incidated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluaton of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	2F, NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Oct. 23 to Oct. 31, 2006	8:00 AM 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room, 2 Floor NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Nov. 03, 2006	1:30 PM
3. Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2 Floor NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Nov. 17, 2006	1:30 PM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2 Floor NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Nov. 17, 2006	1:31 PM

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon presentation of Letter of Intent bearing the correct name of the agency that will participate in the Bidding and payment of a non-refundable, non transferable bidding fee in the following amount. Contract No. 1-P10,000.00, Contract No. 2-P9,000.00 and Contract No. 3-P4,000.00 to the Cashier of National Food Authority-Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City. Representatives of the agency purchasing Bid Documents must be equipped with a Special Power of Attorney to purchase the documents for and in behalf of the agency.

The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The *National Food Authority, Region 10* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
BAC-Chairman

(PDI - Oct 20 & 26, 2006)

Eduardo Sahagun
CFO, Holcim Philippines
Partner since 1992

THE LOFTIEST TOWERS FIND STRENGTH IN DEEP FOUNDATIONS.

Holcim

"We are the number one cement exporter in the Philippines. We exported 1.7 million tons last year, 50 million dollars."

It takes financial stability to stay at the top. In 2002, Holcim catapulted the company to one of the leading cement manufacturers in the Philippines. Mr. Eduardo Sahagun helps Holcim to reach a higher level of leadership, taking responsibility for the environment and the people that surround it.

"We should be able to contribute to the Philippines in a broader sense by approaching business responsibly. We are committed to building sustainable lives in partnership with our stakeholders, keeping the window open to opportunities and making sure that there will always be enough for tomorrow's children."

Holcim stands steadfast at its current position. With Metrobank at its side through decades of constant expansion and growth, Holcim looks forward to going beyond what it has already achieved as the leader in their field.

"We have been in this industry for almost 50 years now. During the 90's we went into expansion putting up a million tons every year. Now we're exporting to other countries. Metrobank is very supportive. They gave us the financial strength that helped us through our expansion."

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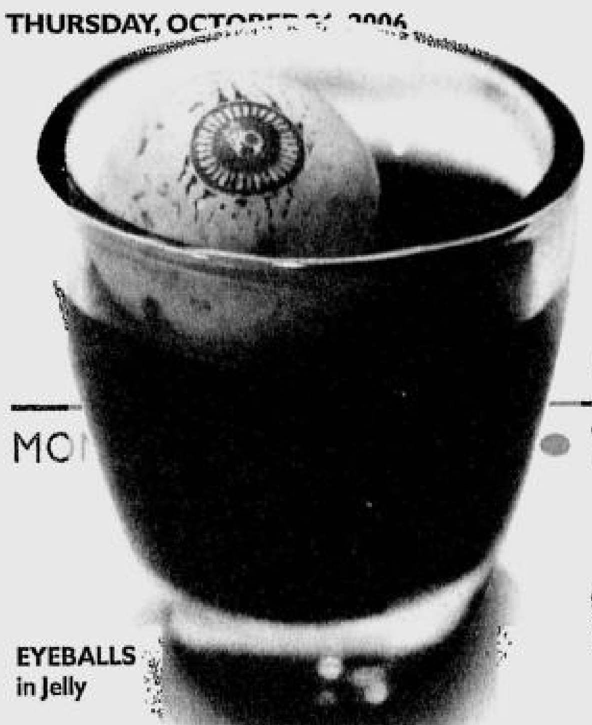
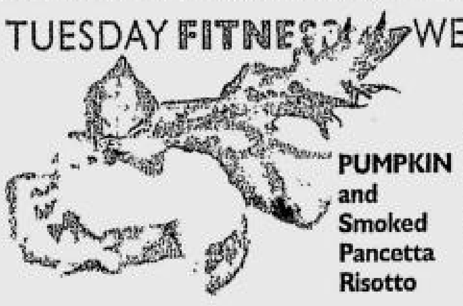


EYEBALLS in Jelly



PUMPKIN and Smoked Pancetta Risotto

'Blood and gore' menu for Halloween

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BLEEDING HEART CAKE, BAT sandwich, deviled potato, boiled tongue, spider pizza, blood sausage. Bring on the pumpkins and let out the bats as Hotel Philippine Plaza celebrates a "Spooktacular Halloween Holiday" brunch on Oct. 29 at the seven cooking theaters of the Spiral (tel. 5515555 local 1086).

Complete with a Coffin Station and enchanting potions from the Witches' Brew, the lunch fare is designed to give the young thrilling Halloween experiences, such as the Haunted Walk, Pumpkin Parade, Scary Storytelling and Halloween Mask-Making. They can even learn the secrets of carving out a most horrific jack-o'-lantern.

Guests who check in with their children Oct. 27-29 get two free tickets per room for trick-or-treat. At the special Halloween brunch on Oct. 29 at the Spiral, kids will also get free trick-or-treat tickets. Children 6 and below get to eat for free.

Gory spread

Executive chef Luke Dale-Roberts said the Spiral would feature a buffet spread of pumpkin and "goriness" to go with the Halloween theme.

The pumpkin festival has delectable Chilled Pumpkin, Lemongrass and Crab Soup with sour cream; Roasted Pumpkin with Honey Walnut and Smoked Duck Salad; Pumpkin and Smoked Pancetta Risotto with Mascarpone and Seared Scallops; Pumpkin Tempura, Parma ham, poached egg and rocket; Pumpkin, Basil and Feta Cheese Terrine; Open Lasagna of Pumpkin and Brandade.

It took several pumpkin-cooking sessions and a full stretch of the imagination, admitted Dale-Roberts, before the menu was narrowed down.

"It's not easy to come up with original Halloween stuff. Cooking pumpkin isn't so inspiring," he said.

The "gory" bunch at the Coffin Station includes the Bat Sandwich made of mustard, prosciutto and chopped cheese; Boiled Tongue; Blood Sausage; Baby Ghost Salad made of baby octopus; Eyeball and Beetroot Salad; Deviled Potato Salad; Cow Leg Confit; Black Mud Paella; Spider Pizza.

But how does one make "goriness" appetizing?

BLOOD/ C2

GHOST Chocolate Cake

A fun brunch awaits guests at the Spiral of Philippine Plaza as chefs serve Spiral Eyeballs in Jelly and Black Mud Paella

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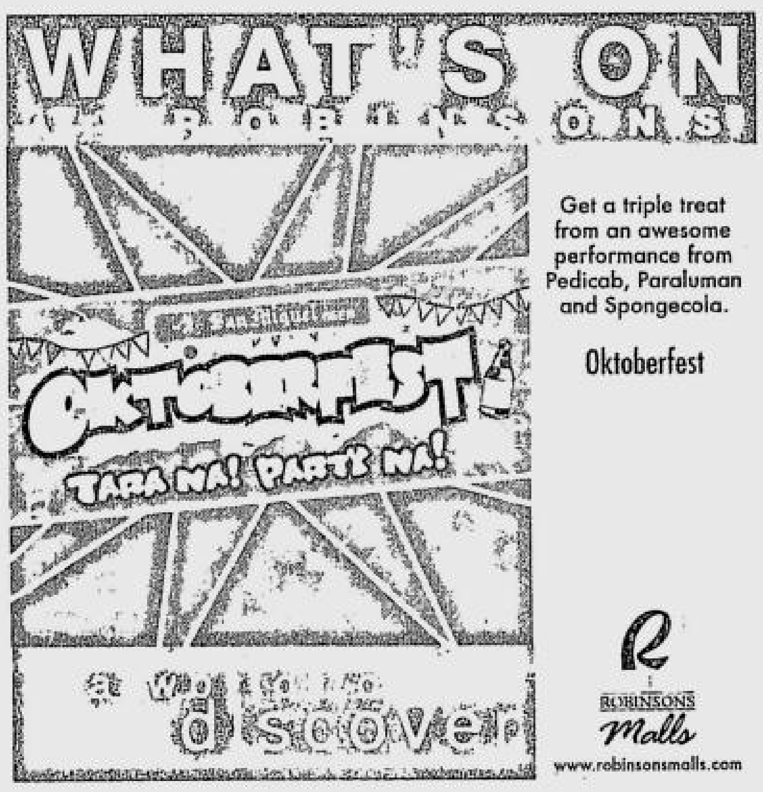
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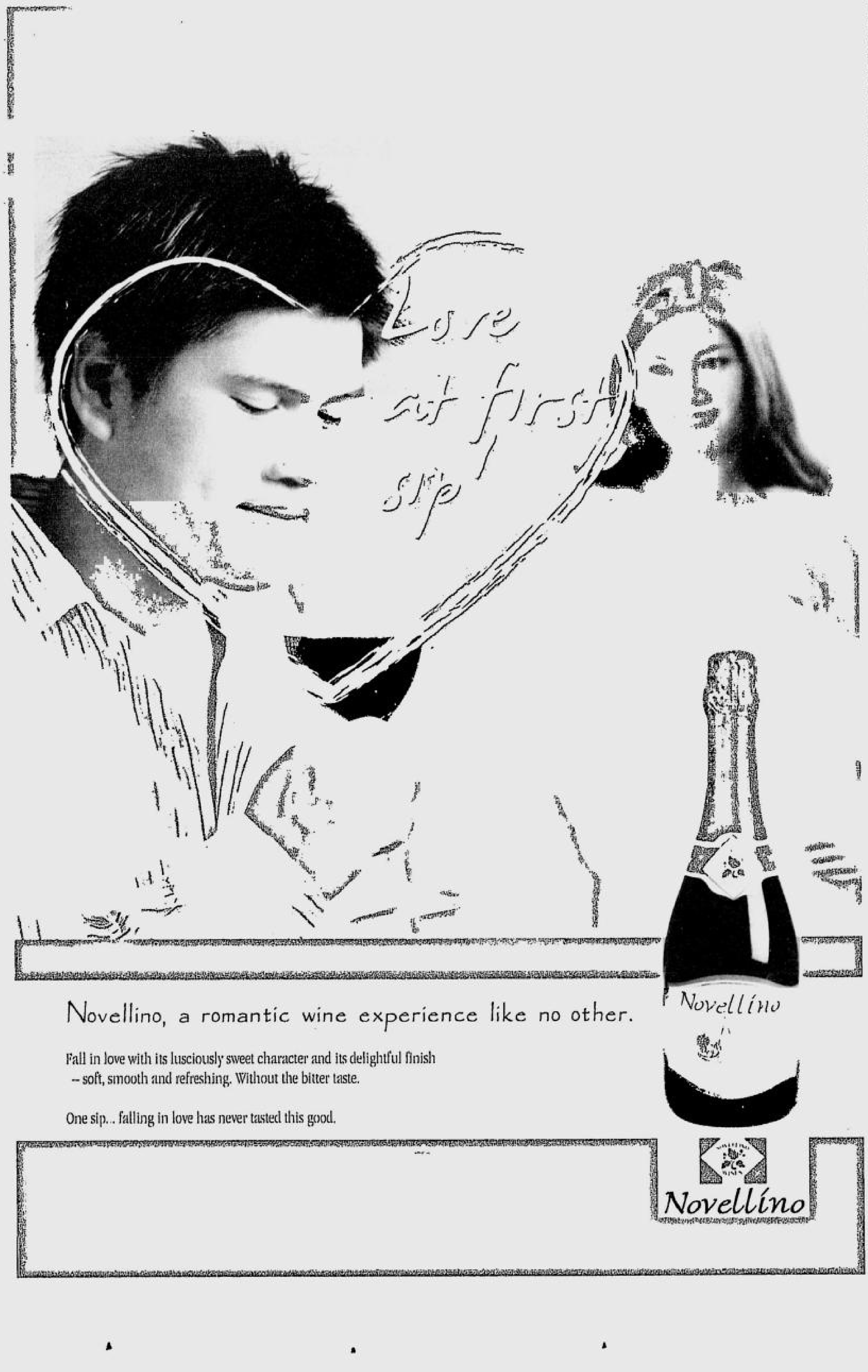

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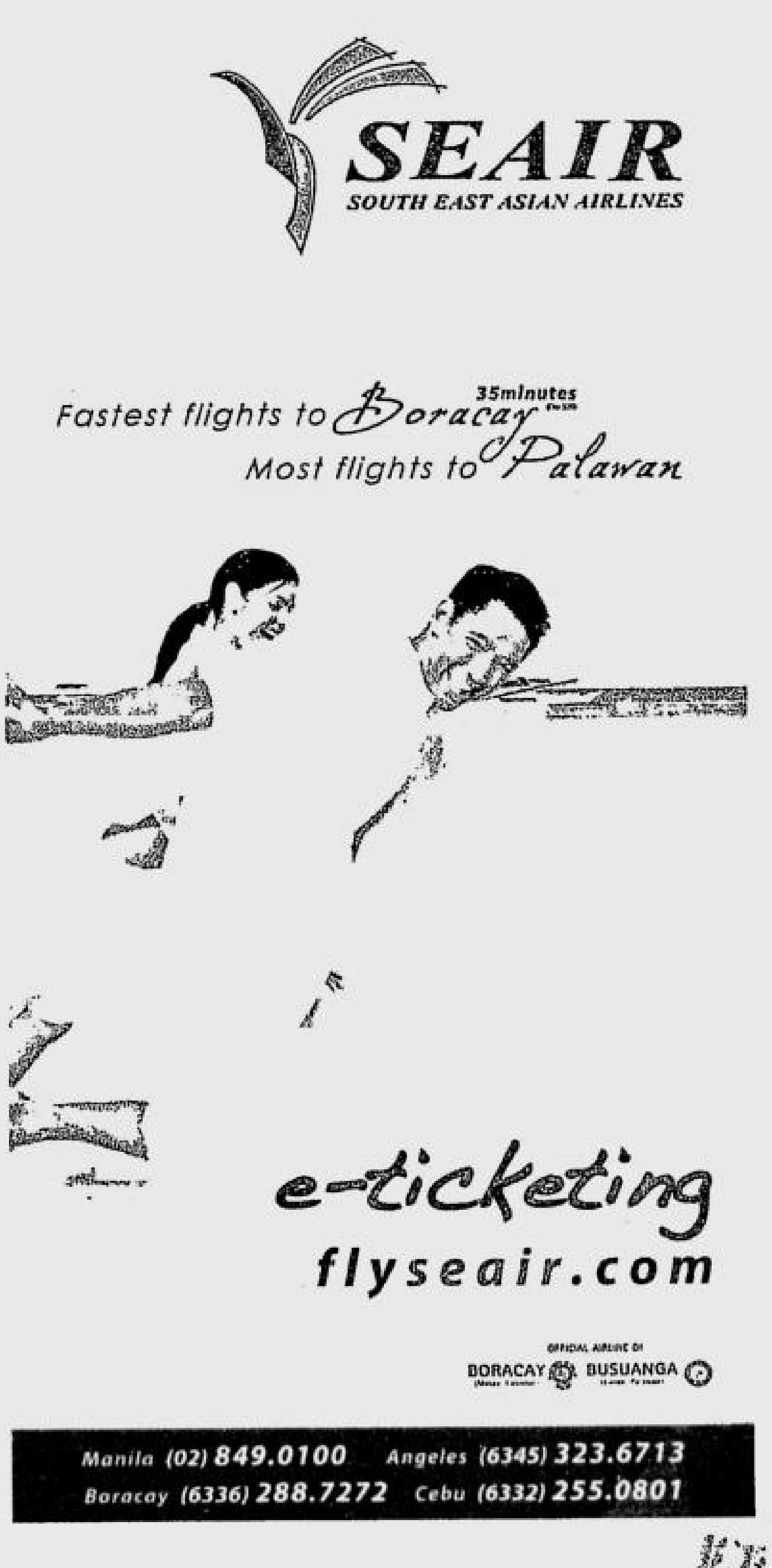

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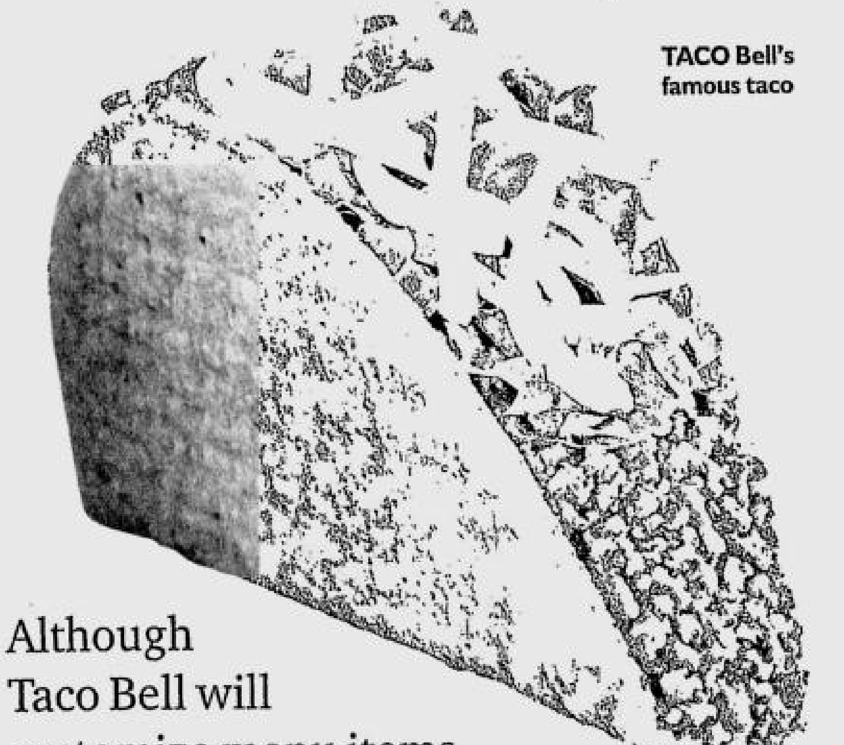
The Mexican returns —and is here to stay

By Belle V. Bondoc



TACO Bell's famous taco

Although Taco Bell will customize menu items, these won't be localized

IN THE EARLY '80S, TACO BELL, THE United States-based Mexican fastfood chain known for its hearty sandwiches, tried to get a foot in the Philippine food business. But the initial attempt failed, for whatever reason.

Several years later, Taco Bell is back and the market is apparently more welcoming. Opening its first restaurant in October 2004 in Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, Taco Bell hasn't looked back and seems to be here to stay. It now has four outlets serving Mexican food at affordable prices.

"The market has transformed and Mexican food is getting a much better response now," said Aidan Hay, director of new business development for YUM! restaurants for Asia Pacific. Taco Bell is a subsidiary of YUM!, also the parent company of Pizza Hut and KFC.

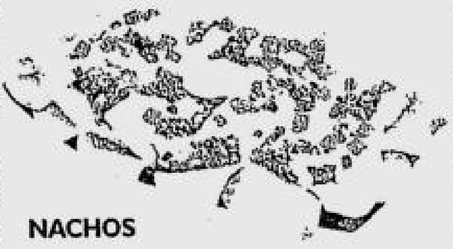
Hay was in town recently to check the overall operations of local outlets. He visits the Philippines once every two months to make sure the local team has all the resources it needs to meet the restaurant's objective.

"Understanding the needs of the consumers, knowing what they want, is what makes restaurant business successful," said Hay.

For Taco Bell, location is a major consideration, spelling the difference between success and failure.

"We wanted to position the brand to people who want to break their habit, their routine, people who are craving for something new," said Hay. "It's not about rice and chicken every single day, it's about trying something different."

The food chain plans to open more branches, targeting major cities like Makati and Mandaluyong, and the new SM Mall of Asia.



NACHOS

AIDAN Hay, director of new business development for YUM! restaurants for Asia Pacific

Tasty snacks

With more and more Filipinos traveling, many have become familiar with the brand and acquired a taste for Taco Bell, especially those who have been to the United States.

The Mexican franchise is widely recognized for its tacos, burritos, fajitas and wraps. Its bestseller obviously is the taco, with its generous and extra-flavorful toppings.

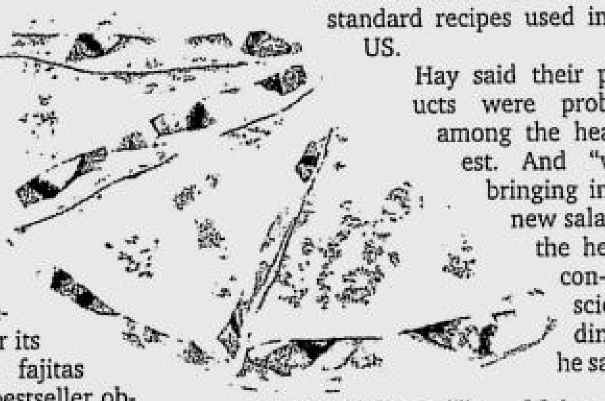
The Grilled Stuft Burrito, with different exciting flavors, is another bestseller. The restaurant also serves the most authentic-tasting nachos in town.

Taco Bell also tries to accommodate the Filipinos' love for rice with its Border Bowl, rice with different toppings like beef and chicken, beans, three-cheese blend, tomatoes, spring onions and creamy jalapeño sauce.

Although the food at Taco Bell can be customized (more/less stuffing-vegetables, cheese, salsa) it will not be localized, Hay said. "It's not about creating *adobo* burritos," he said. "What we're trying to do is develop our products to become more acceptable to the local market like adding more flavors and variations so customers will have more options, but the original taste and quality of the brand remain."

The restaurant uses the same standard recipes used in the US.

Hay said their products were probably among the healthiest. And "we're bringing in our new salad for the health-conscious diners," he said.



CHICKEN Quesadilla

Value meals

This month, the franchise is introducing the Crunch Wrap Supreme, the newest addition to its menu.

It also offers the Big Bell Value menus ranging from P39 to P69. A regular taco and a drink is available for P49. The Mexican Pizza costs P99 as does the Border Bowl.

Also on the menu, among others, are Cheesy Fiesta Potatoes, Meximelt (warm and soft flour tortilla with seasoned ground beef, a blend of three-cheese and fiesta salsa melted to perfection) and steak or chicken Quesadillas. Sides and desserts include Nachos Supreme, Refried Beans, Cinnamon Twists and Churros with Chocolate Dip.

Want customers to have an all-around pleasurable experience? Taco Bell's design tries to create a relaxed and fun ambience where friends and family can enjoy a variety of traditional and innovative creations.

Taco Bell branches are at the Gateway Mall (G/L) and Food Express (3/L); E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC; and in SM Southmall (G/F).

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph.

CHICKEN Grilled Stuft Burrito

DINING OUT

Treats for costumed tykes

BURGOO has special treats for kids in Halloween costumes Oct. 31-Nov. 1. They get special loot bags with chocolates, toys, candies. Burgoo offers all-time favorites Oklahoma-style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Linguini, among others.

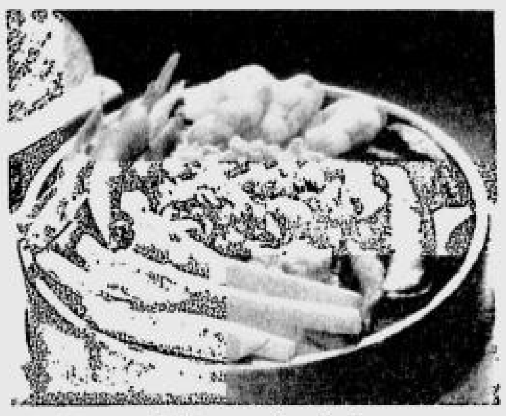
GUMBO marks Halloween with treats for children. Kids in Halloween costumes who will dine Oct. 31-Nov. 1 will receive special gifts and loot bags. Gumbo is at the 2/L, SM Mall of Asia. Call 5560238 to 39.

SUPER BOWL of China is having the "Super Halloween, Hallow Weekend," Oct. 28-29. Diners will be greeted in any Super Bowl branch by the staff in full Halloween costume. Activities lined up 3-5 p.m. include craft-making sessions and Halloween costume parties for kids. To register, just present proof of purchase within the month of October to the branch manager. Kids in costumes have a chance to win prizes.

T.G.I.FRIDAYS let kids eat for free when they come in Halloween costumes on Oct. 31. The Halloween treat is available to dine-in customers and limited to two kids in costumes per table. It is available from 11 a.m. until closing time. T.G.I.Friday's branches are in Glorietta 3; Robinsons Place Malate; Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Alabang Town Center; and Sta. Lucia East.

FISH AND CO. and **OUTBACK** Restaurants allow kids in Halloween costumes to dine for free. Two kids in costumes per table get to enjoy the Halloween treat at Fish & Co. Shangri-La and Greenbelt. But other kids can have a free game ticket from Timezone and an ice cream from Big Scoop. Kids get free loot bags in Outback Restaurant branches in Libis and Makati. The offers are available at Fish & Co. and Outback branches from 11 a.m. until closing time.

ITALIANNI'S will turn into "Fairytopia" and give kids a magical day. Girls should wear fairy costumes while boys can be Peter Pan, a green gnome, a leprechaun, etc. All kids get loot bags or baskets of toys and candies at Italianni's. At Italianni's in Greenbelt, Megamall, Mall of Asia, Greenhills and Alabang Town Center, there will be free glitter tattoo 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.



RED Kimono's "Better than Buffet Kamameshi Festival" is priced at P495+. A must-try is the appetizer of crabstick roll with wasabi mayonnaise or layered spinach and tofu. Sushi Bar specials are crunchy maki with tuna or ebi toppings or the salmon and cream cheese maki. Red Kimono is at the Fort Strip, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Call 8166642 or log on to www.redkimono.com.ph.

DUSIT Hotel celebrates Halloween with "Pirates' Trove-A Halloween Event," 11:30-3:30 p.m., Oct. 28, at the Café and Fiesta San Miguel. The Café's kiddie buffet is available for P350 net per kid. Call 8673333.

MANDARIN Oriental's Tin Hau offers six new set menus at P988+. They are Jasmine (six-course menu for at least two persons), Lotus, Emperor, Phoenix, Oriental and Mandarin (8-10 courses for 8-10 persons). Diners also get 40-70 percent discount on gourmet dishes ordered with the set menus. Call 7508888 local 2422/2424.

HYATT Hotel and Casino's The Fireplace offers classic meat favorites this month. Featured dishes include Wood-fired Roasted Deer Steaks, Venison topped with Pan-roasted Chanterelles and the Wild Hare. The hotel's Li Li offers Double-Boiled Pacific Conch and Black Chicken Soup. Call 2451234.

Halloween kiddie recipes

TO MAKE HALLOWEEN A TREAT, SAN Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center shares the following recipes for kids. For more recipes, log on to www.mygreatfood.com.

Spooky Ghost Bites

8 slices white bread
4 slices Purefoods Ham Selections of your choice (sweet, spiced, salami, bologna, ham sausage)
4 slices Magnolia Cheese Singles
3 tbsp mayonnaise
½ tbsp mustard
honey to taste
salt to taste
8 pcs cloves for decoration
ghost cookie cutter

SPOOKY Ghost Bites

Cut bread, ham and cheese one by one using the ghost cookie cutter. Set aside.

In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, mustard and honey to make honey mustard sauce. Season with salt according to taste.

Spread the inside of the bread with honey mustard sauce. Layer one side of the bread with cheese and ham and top with another bread. Repeat with remaining ingredients. Decorate each sandwich with two pieces of cloves to make the eyes of the "ghosts."

Makes 4 sandwiches.

Oh My Ghouly Joes!

1 tbsp Magnolia Nutri-Oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
1 tbsp onion, minced
¼ kg Monterey ground beef
¼ tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp soy sauce
2 tbsps tomato sauce
pinch of pepper
1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
2 tbsp whole corn kernel
3 pc hamburger bun, split
½ cup Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, grated

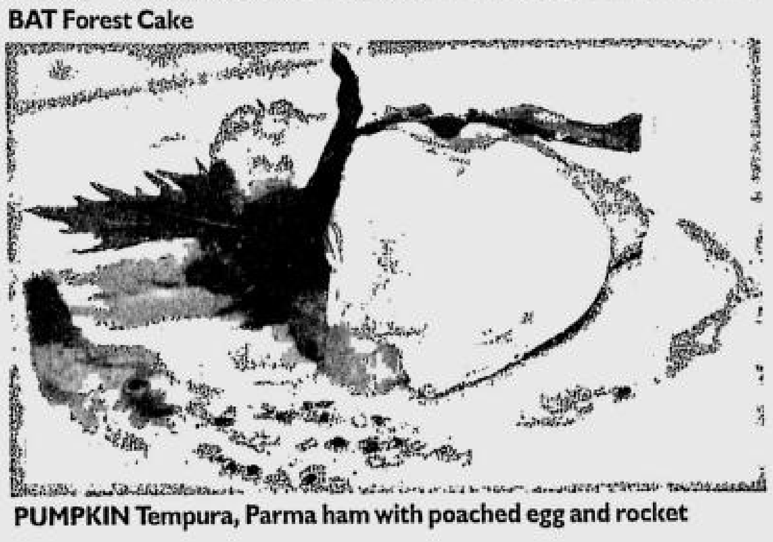
Heat Magnolia Nutri-Oil in a sauté pan. Sauté garlic and onions. Add ground beef and cook until color changes. Add all the seasonings, tomato sauce and spring onions. Cook for another 1 minute. Remove from heat and add in corn kernels. Set aside to cool slightly. To assemble, top split side of bun with ground beef mixture. Top with grated cheese. Heat in the oven toaster for 5-7 minutes or until cheese melts.

Makes 3-6 servings.

'Blood and gore' menu

From page C1

BAT Forest Cake



PUMPKIN Tempura, Parma ham with poached egg and rocket

"You can be innovative, but you can't make it look appetizing. Working with squid ink gives a dish a dark color that doesn't necessarily whet the appetite. That's why the food has to taste good," Dale-Roberts said.

Inventions

The desserts, he said, were pure inventions of design and décor. The sweet tooth can indulge in Ghost Chocolate Cake, Bat Forest Cake, Worm Jelly, Bleeding Heart Cake, Eyeballs in Jelly and Slimy Bucket Dip (don't worry, it's made of chocolate).

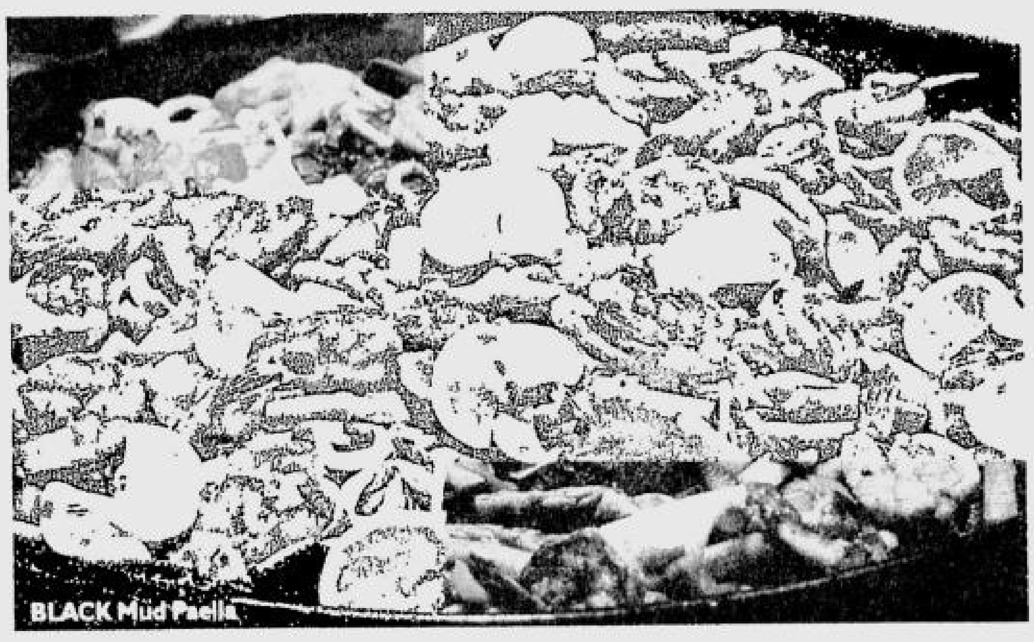
Drinks at the Witches' Brew include such concoctions as Frankenstein's Power Drink, Love Spell, Vampire's Blood, Dracula's Poison, Fairy Godmother's Beauty Potion. The thirst-quenchers are all nutritious, by the way, made from fresh fruits and honey. For instance, papaya, peaches, banana, pineapple, yogurt, honey, fresh milk and crushed ice make up Frankenstein's Power Drink.

"I think children and adults alike will enjoy our menu. We've worked really hard to be able give them a really good Halloween festival. It will be a fun day for the whole family," Dale-Roberts said.

Fun workshops are also lined up for children. Creative Halloween decorations made of fruits and vegetables will be presented by chef Emmhil; chef Rodel has spooky chocolate carvings; and Dr. Frankenstein himself will mix the "potions" (smoothies). Kids go trick-or-treating starting at 2 p.m.

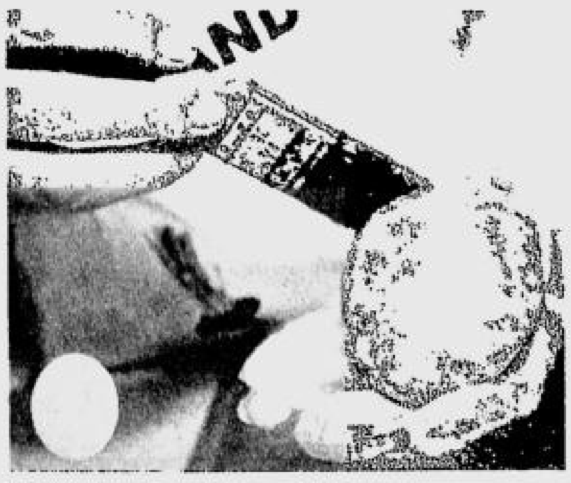
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph.

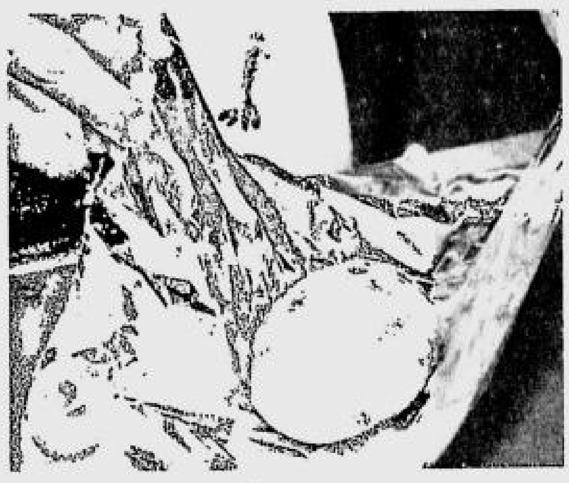
GHOULISH Clusters

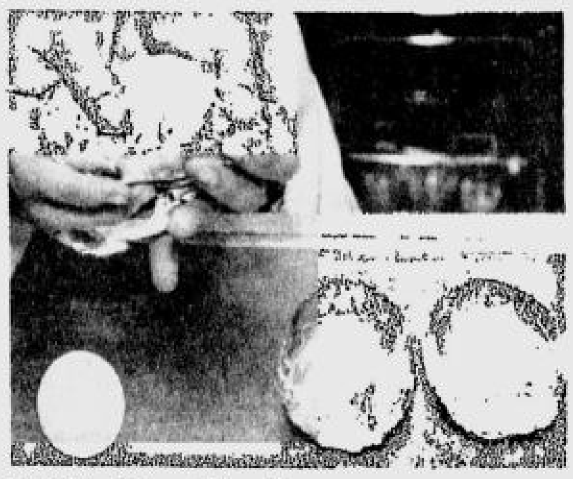


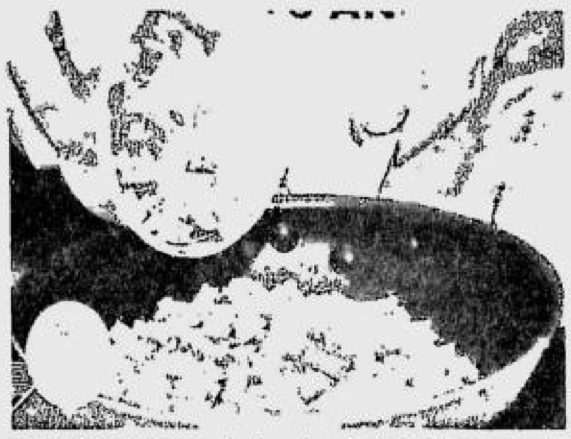
BLACK Mud Paella

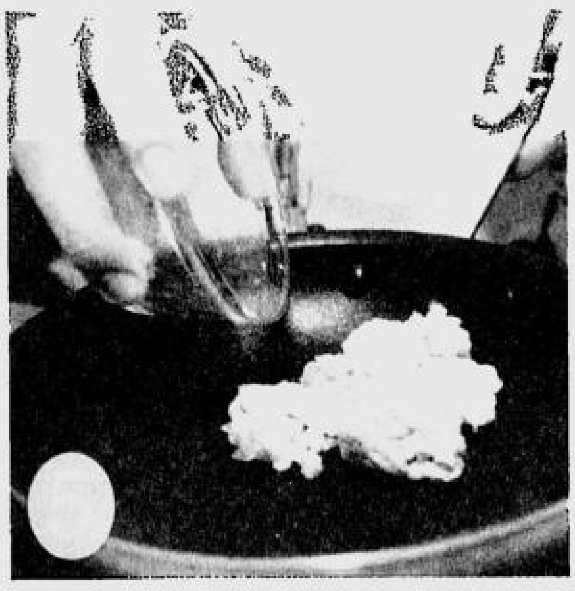
ROASTED Pumpkin with Honey Walnut and Smoked Duck Salad


PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Brush potatoes with melted butter.

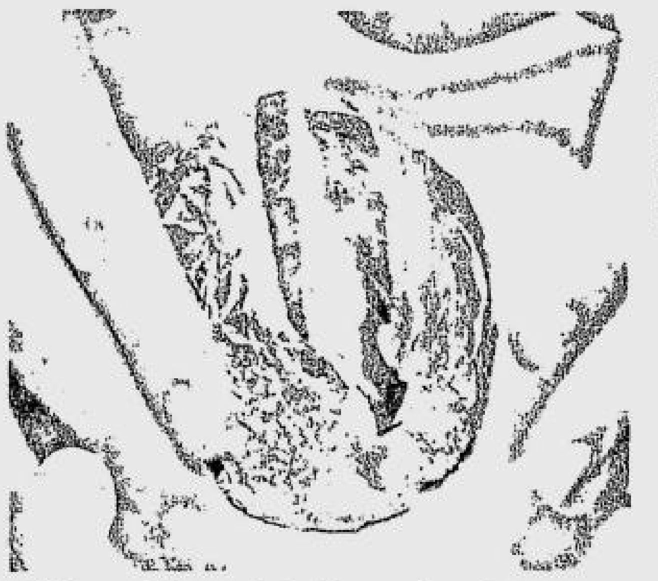

WRAP in aluminum foil.

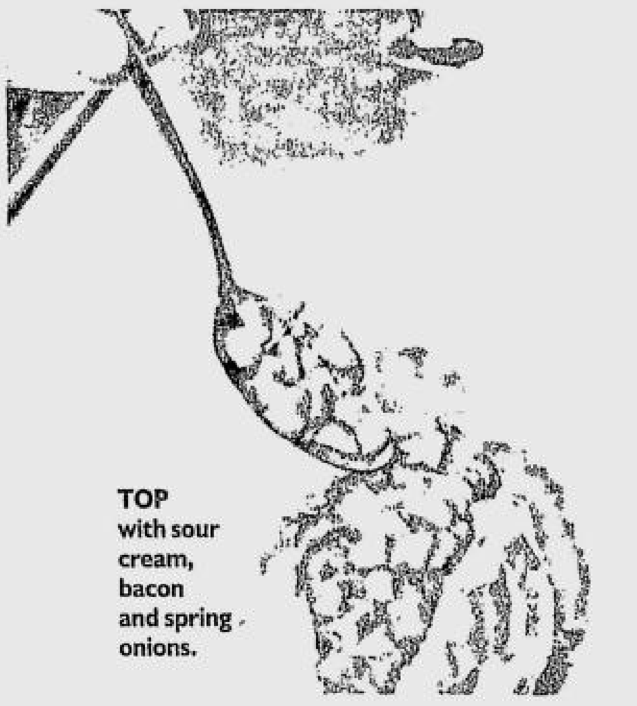

BAKE for 1 hour. Set aside.


MEANWHILE, pan-fry hotdog for 2-3 minutes. Chop and set aside. Heat Chili Con in a pan or microwave until warm. Set aside.


PAN-FRY bacon until crisp and golden. Drain in paper towels.

MAKE a slit on the baked potato.


THEN press foil toward the sides to release the potato from its wrapper, almost as if you're squeezing its innards out.


TOP with sour cream, bacon and spring onions.

Triple baked potato treats

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Ryan Lim

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A CLASSIC SIDE dish. For some, baked potato is comfort food extraordinaire—cheap and easy to prepare.

When paired with lip-smacking chili con carne or simply drizzled with cheese with crunchy bacon tidbits, baked potatoes—crispy golden skin outside, white and fluffy inside—can be an unforgettable meal by itself.

Making baked potato can be fun. Check out and use whatever you have in your pantry or refrigerator because virtually anything can go into baked potatoes.

Here's a list of potential mouth-watering potato toppings: salsa, plain yogurt and coriander, pizza sauce and mozzarella, cheese and beans, corned beef and horseradish.

Other possible toppings are mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, green peppers, butter/margarine; parmesan, cottage, ricotta, blue and cheddar cheeses; diced ham, ground beef, shredded chicken, crab chunks, or any salad dressing.

Potatoes are highly versatile and can be cooked in any way imaginable—steamed, boiled, grilled, fried or baked. Moreover, potatoes do not do a lot of "damage" to the waistline (a six-ounce potato has only about 120 calories) and are very nutritious.

They are low in sodium, high in potassium, and an important source of complex carbohydrates and vitamins C and B-6, as well as minerals.

If you want to prepare your own baked potatoes, make sure to choose pieces suitable for baking. They should be firm, well-shaped and blemish-free. Avoid potatoes that are wrinkled, sprouted or cracked.

Wash potatoes thoroughly to remove dirt, taking care not to break the skin. Dry each potato thoroughly.

The skin should have a nice even brown tone without a greenish cast. Choose potatoes with uniform shapes and sizes.

Chef Sonny Ong of San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center demonstrates how to make Double Cheese and Ham Baked Potato, Baked Potato with Bacon and Sour Cream, and Cheezee Chili Dog Baked Potato.

"In baking potatoes, make sure the oven is hot and the potato big," says Ong, who coats potatoes with butter and wraps them in foil before baking. "Wrapping the potato with foil will produce soft skin. A fork easily pierces a potato when done."

You can also pierce the potato with a fork before wrapping it with foil. As the potato heats up, the water it contains will release steam. The steam will help melt the butter so it sticks to the skin.

TOP with Chili Con and chopped hotdog. Drizzle with Magnolia Cheezee Spread and sprinkle with *wansoy*.

STEP BY STEP

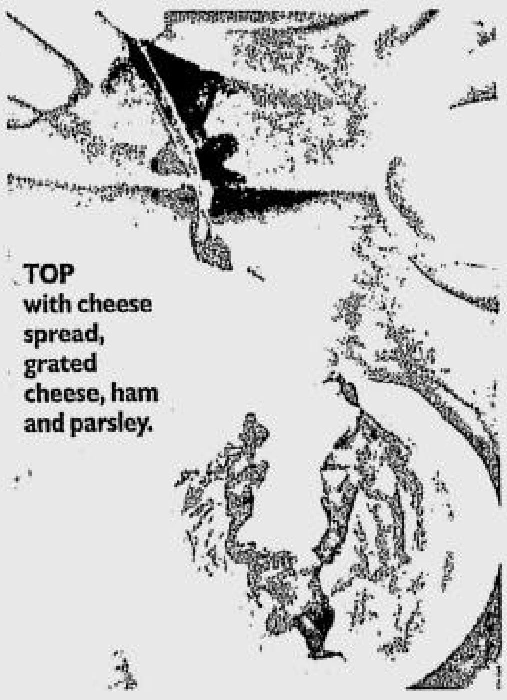
Ingredients

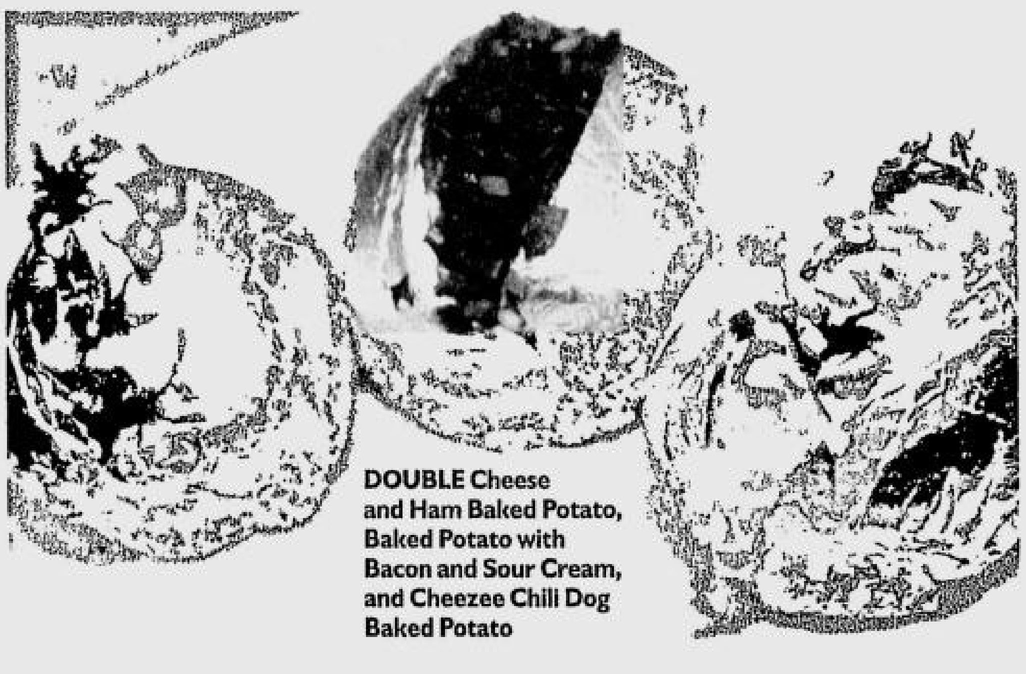
Double Cheese and Ham Baked Potato:
2 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter, melted
4 pc potatoes, cleaned and scrubbed
½ c Purefoods Sweet Ham, chopped
½ c Magnolia Cheezee Spread, pimiento
½ c grated Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese
¼ c parsley
Glad aluminum foil

Baked Potato with Bacon and Sour Cream:
2 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter, melted
4 pc potatoes, cleaned and scrubbed
½ c Purefoods Lean & Mean Bacon
¾ c sour cream
¼ c chopped spring onions
Glad aluminum foil

Cheezee Chili Dog Baked Potato:
2 tbsp Magnolia Gold Butter, melted
4 pc potatoes, cleaned and scrubbed
2 pc Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog, chopped
¾ c Purefoods Chili Con
2 20-g sachet Magnolia Cheezee Spread
¼ cup chopped *wansoy*
Glad aluminum foil

For suggestions, e-mail vbaga@inquirer.com.ph


TOP with cheese spread, grated cheese, ham and parsley.


DOUBLE Cheese and Ham Baked Potato, Baked Potato with Bacon and Sour Cream, and Cheezee Chili Dog Baked Potato

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P2,750 - NOV 8 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers.
P4,500 - NOV - 10 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 7 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers NEXT SCHED: DEC 4 - 8
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P3,000 - NOV 11 Flaky (kaliskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie. NEXT SCHED: DEC 9
P3,000 - NOV 18 - Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat & Raisin Bread NEXT SCHED: DEC 16
P3,000 - NOV 25 - Brownie Supreme, Choco and Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Spiced Raisin, and Chewy Golden Cookies. NEXT SCHED: DEC 23
3. NOV 13 - 16 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - (P11,000)
New method on Gumpaste Flowers, Objects, Marzipan, Ribbon Insertion, Finest String Works, Lace Pieces, New Recipe of Fondant & Chocolate Fondant. NEXT SCHED: DEC 11 - 14
4. NOV 15 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - (P5,000)
Using Lace Mats, New Rolling Pin W/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilling NEXT SCHED: DEC 13
5. NOV 17 // 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM - NEW CAKES - Latest pound cake w/ sour cream, Piña Colada, Tres Leches, Mocha Cake w/ egg white mocha icing, Chocolate Cherry Cake - (P3,000) NEXT SCHED: DEC 15
6. NOV 20 - 24 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P13,000. For whole course)
P2,600 - NOV 20 - Cakes, plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,600 - NOV 21 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,850 - NOV 22 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & raisin bread.
P2,850 - NOV 23 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,600 - NOV 24 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons. NEXT SCHED: DEC 18 - 22
7. NOV 20 - 24 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE. (P5,000)
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling, b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium, c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies, d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes "COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS (P10,000) by appointment" NEXT SCHED: DEC 18 - 22
8. NOV 27 - DEC 1 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P14,000. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,000 - NOV 27 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Decadence cake, Fan Torte cake, Fruit Torte cake
P3,000 - NOV 28 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistachio cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.
P3,000 - NOV 29 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake.
P3,000 - NOV 30 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake
P3,000 - DEC 01 - Meringues: Sansrival, Solothurn, Queens Torte, Braso de Mercedez, Pineapple Meringue Pie.
NEXT SCHED: JAN 29 - FEB 2 / FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL
9. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

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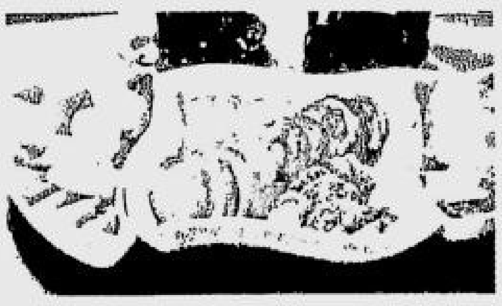
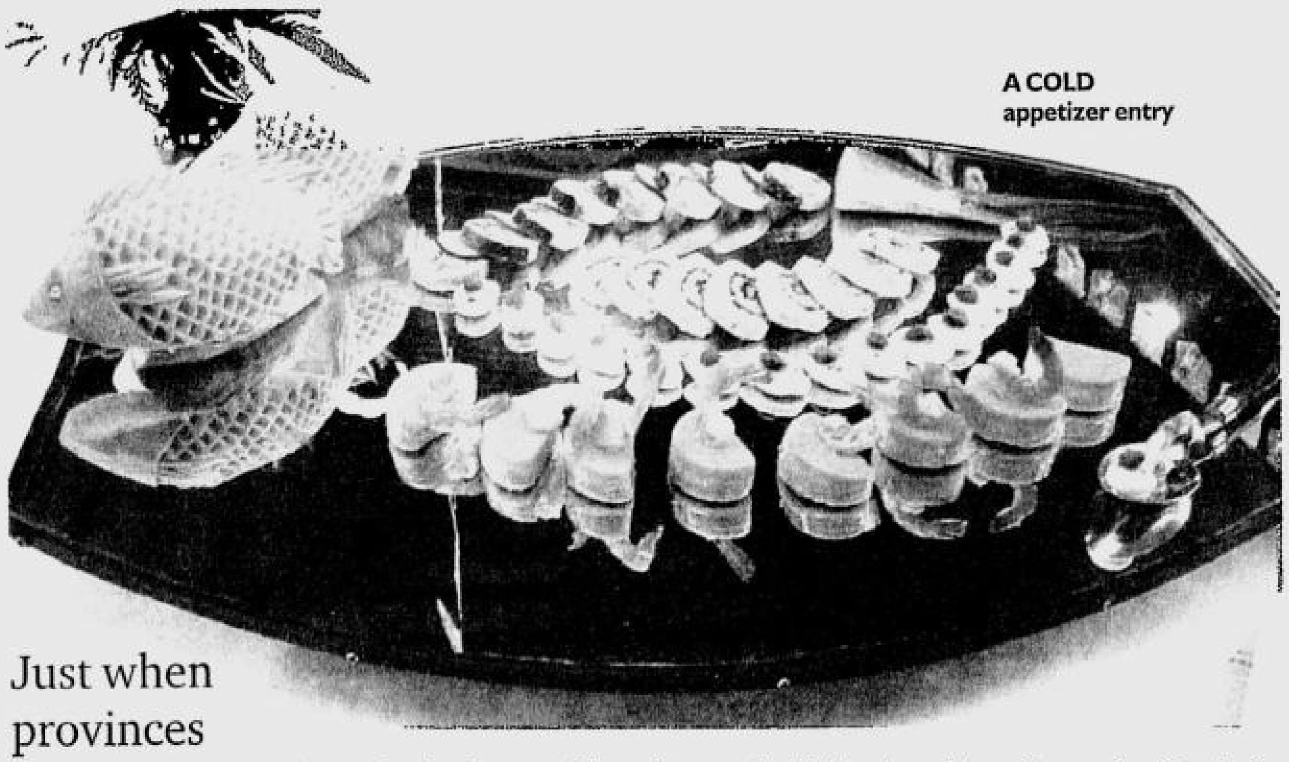
Culinary competitions have gone provincial

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix


PUCHERO of *pinoneg* and *alingo*


A COLD appetizer entry

THE GOOD NEWS IS, provincial culinary competitions are on the rise.

The bad news is, Chefs on Parade, the Manila-based culinary competition of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of the Philippines, is dead.

I'm not privy to the reasons. But it's sad because the provinces were gearing up to compete in Manila to make a truly national contest.

This year, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio and Davao have finished with their respective competitions. The Negros Museum in Silay City will once more hold its *adobo* cooking contest and has added a *muscovado* contest.

Dumaguete has invited me to be a judge at their Lutong Garbo sa Oriental Negros (will report on this in another column).

Discovery

It's interesting for those of us invited to judge because it's a great way to see the country, meet new friends, rekindle friendships and discover the regions through the food.

Baguio, for instance, started its culinary competition just three years ago. It began with a few schools and professionals. This year, it has grown to 60 schools and establishments, with competitors coming from as far as Iligan, Misamis Occidental, as well as the provinces that rim the Cordilleras—La Union, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Quirino.

At the end of every individual or team competition, there is a period called debriefing. It's when judges tell competitors what was right and what was wrong with their entries. It is hoped that, for the next contest, they would have learned from the experience and the tips given.

In the cooking contests, for instance, judges will say never to put a garnish that is inedible. And to please chuck the curly parsley because that isn't done anymore.

The main message in that last tip is that one must keep track of trends through magazines and through the Internet. If you're competing, you have to keep ahead.

Going to the right site is important because there is so much bad dish presentation online. Go to sites of reputable culinary magazines and known restaurants with award-winning chefs.

Learning, however, is never one way. For the judges, these contests are an opportunity to know the local name of ingredients and how people eat in that region.

> Just when provinces gear up to compete in Manila, the Chefs on Parade 'dies'

Etag, the salt pork of the Cordilleras, was one such discovery for many of us. It was fortuitous that one contest was on Cordillera cooking and *etag* was used. Some judges kept asking contestants for slices and, in between bites, compared it to air-dried hams of Italy, France and Spain.

But while the cocktail crowd may take the ham as is, *etag* is mainly used for flavoring in highland cooking. One such dish is the *pinikpikan*, soup from chicken killed slowly through soft taps because the ensuing blood clots are important to the taste and texture.

At that Cordillera "fusion" cooking, the winner made blood sausage out of the local *dinuguan* version called *pinoneg*.

Wild boar (*alingo*) was made presentable by wrapping each piece in the cleaned skin. Everything was then boiled to make *puchero*, including the vegetables of Baguio and the root crops *gabi* and *kamote*.

Kilometric 'longganisa'

The culinary competition is part of the annual Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Weekend of Baguio City. To create some buzz about the recent event, *longganisa* strands were paraded through the main thoroughfare.

Plastic-gloved students who carried it also had a dance routine. The *longganisa* was 2.3 kilometers long, though it could have been twice that but for the lack of students to hold it. It was made by Alabanza meat store and lengths of it were pre-sold to establishments.

Some judges decided to taste the *longganisa*—not the one paraded—served near the Baguio Country Club where the competition was held.

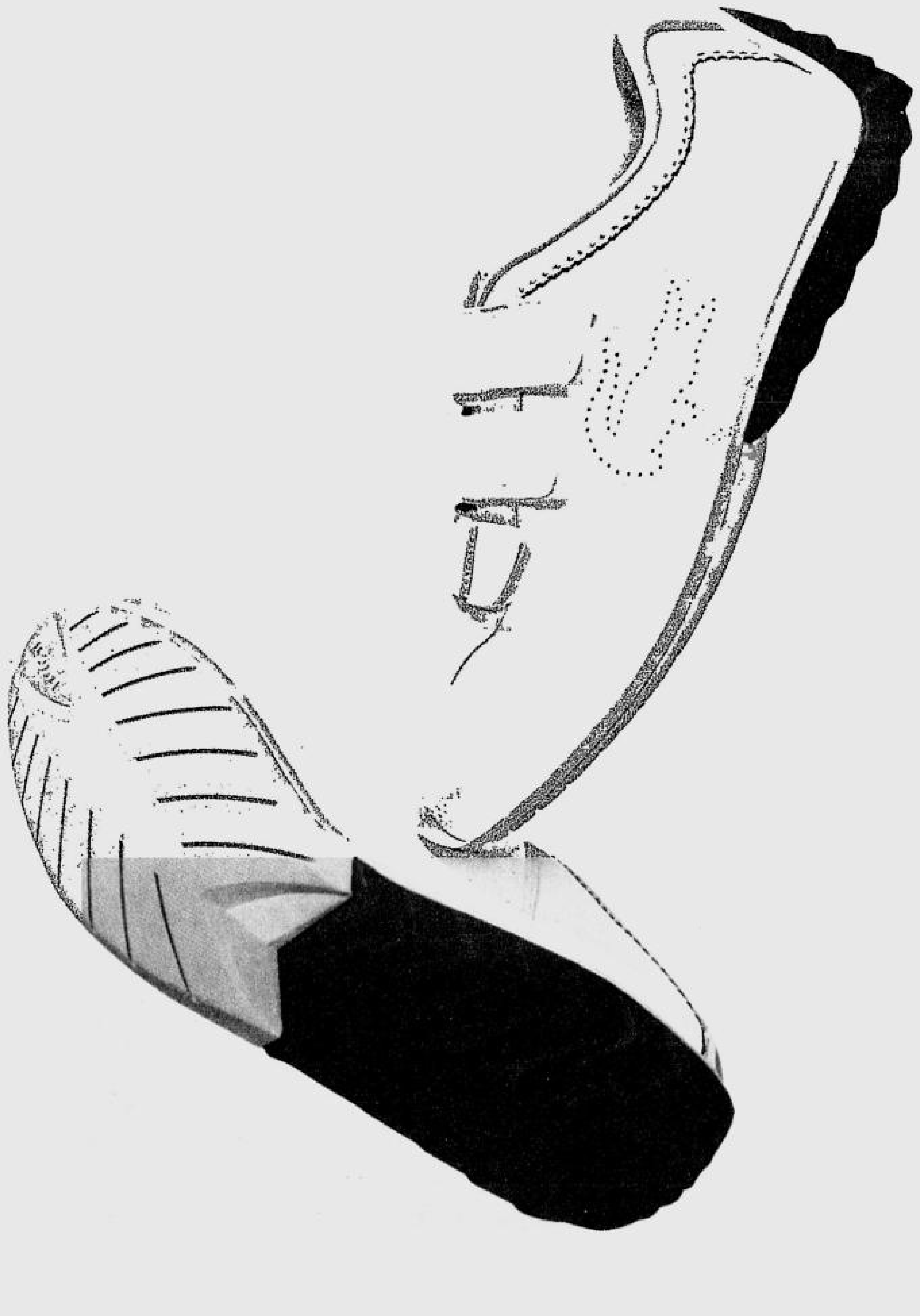
The club has always hosted the judges, whose number has been increasing because of more competitions and participants.

Anthony de Leon, general manager and president of the Hotel and Restaurants Association of Baguio, makes sure the judges are well-fed and well-rested. We always look forward to the *pinakbet* and the *sinigang* of the club, their excellent breads and, for bringing home, the best strawberry jam in town.

The *longganisa* is one of the must-buy products whenever one visits this City of Pines (the trees visible at least in the Country Club area). Strawberries either fresh or made into jams, *ube* jam, brooms, peanut brittle, chocolate flakes and raisin breads fill our *pasalubong* packages.

Because we were lucky to escape the wrath of typhoon Milenyo by our timely visit to Baguio, buying vegetables was one way to make up for enjoying the cool weather and not suffering the brownouts and traffic back home.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com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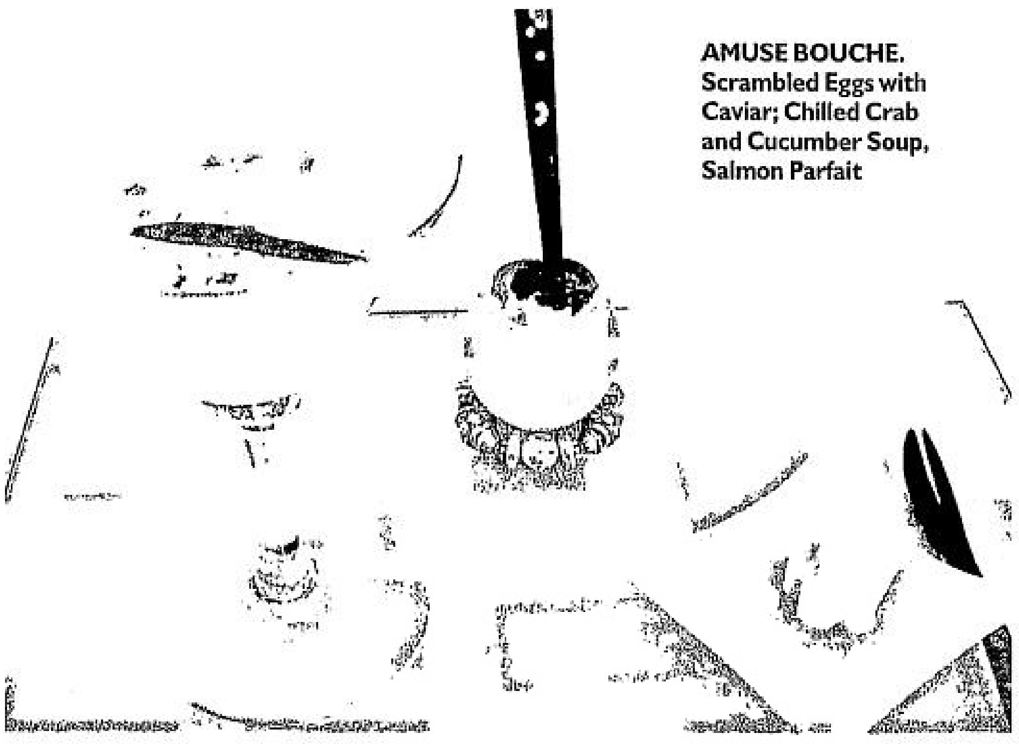


AMUSE BOUCHE. Scrambled Eggs with Caviar; Chilled Crab and Cucumber Soup, Salmon Parfait

Her mother's Sunshine

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

THE ART OF COOKING, THEY say, is passed on from generation to generation. Many excellent cooks and chefs have, somewhere along their genetic tree, a kitchen whiz whose love for good food must have found its way to their DNA, which they had unknowingly passed on to their next of kin. Such is the case of Bella Yuchengco and Sunshine Puey.

Like any proud mother, Bella welcomed me and my family to her home to feast on her daughter's creations.

At 29, three years fresh out of cooking school, under the tutelage of chefs Didier Strudler (formerly of Alain Ducasse), Philippe Moreau (L'Espadon), Christophe Belet (formerly of La tour d' Argent); and in the Philippines, under the discriminating eye of one of our best, Ariel Manuel, Sunshine is one of the fresh faces in the business to reckon with. I eagerly await her evolution, for time and experience will only further enhance her talent which is already highly visible.

Our menu

Amuse Bouche—Scrambled Eggs with Caviar, Chilled Crab and Cucumber Soup, Salmon Parfait.

Trio of Foie Gras—Foie Gras Torchon, Baked Mango; Foie Gras Root Fritters, Balsamic Fig Jam; Pan-fried Foie Gras, Potato Stack and Fried Quail Egg.

Trio of Scallops—Scallop and Asparagus Ceviche; Scallop in Miso Cream with Sauteed Spinach (I found this excellent!); Black Bean Scallop and Noodle Pancake (Delicious!); Lamb Cutlets in Pink Peppercorn Cream, Chocolate Silk Napoleon, Vanilla Creme Anglaise (Excellent! We must encourage her to accept orders for this one. This is one of the best chocolate desserts I have ever tasted. It melts in your mouth!).

The order of the day calls for giving credit to whom and where it's due. This budding chef has her mother to thank. Bella is no stranger to the kitchen; she loves to cook and I know, with a tinge of envy (for she remains a svelte 100 pounds), that she lives to eat!

The mother-and-daughter tandem entertains from their residence. The mother sets her dining table for you and serves Chinese lauriats (highlighting many family heirloom recipes), while daughter does French and Japanese Kaiseki—"degustation"-type menus—at their residence, and catering as well. Nice thing is what they charge is so reasonable, considering the effort and cost to prepare such a meal!

Dearest Bella, Imee and Sunshine: A week after, we could still feel and see the effects of your food on our bodies! Thank you for welcoming us into your home and sharing the immense satisfaction that only good food brings!

Call 8506011 or 0920-9622846.

Food for thought

Before I'm asked, here are the answers!

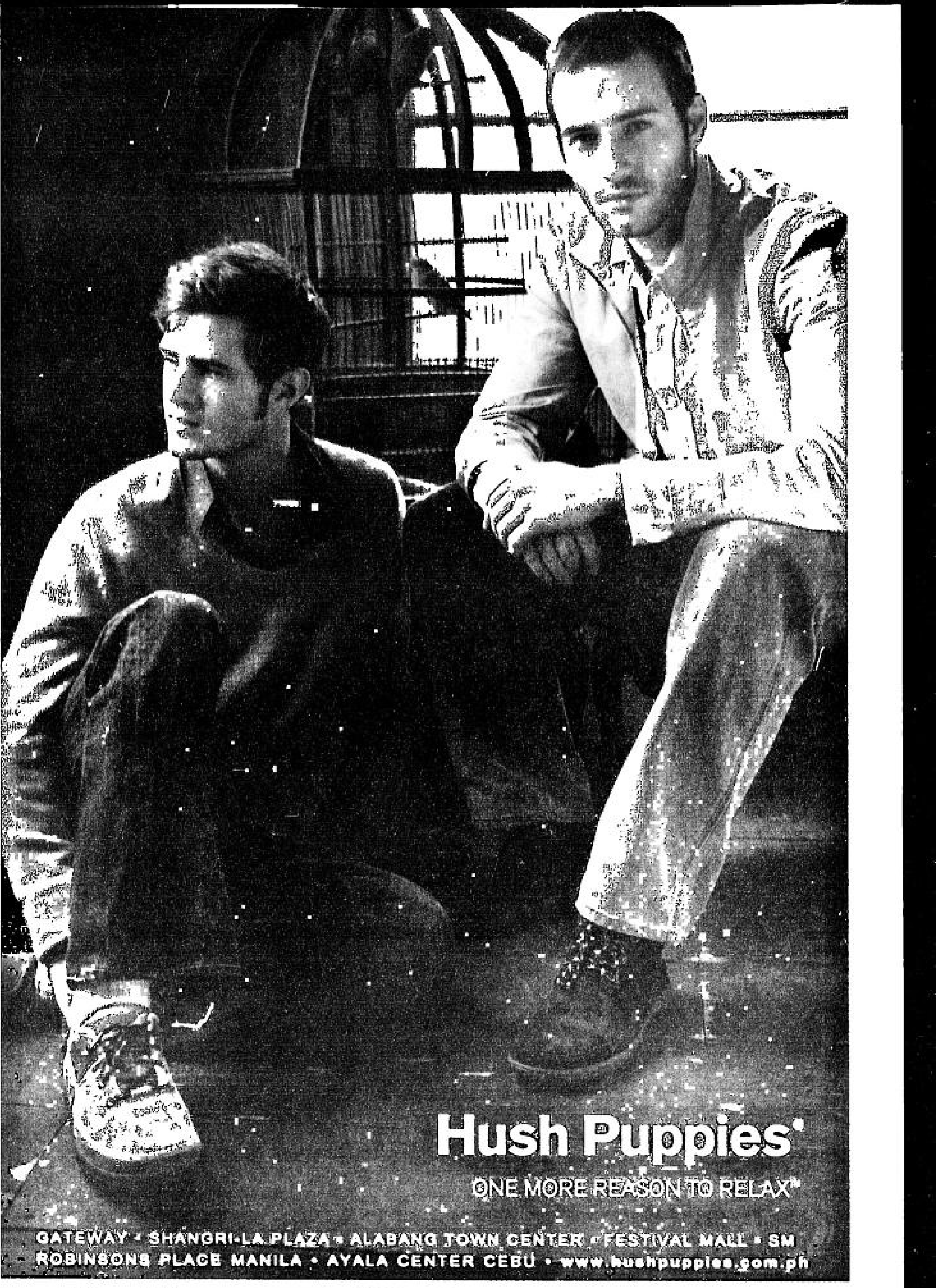
Amuse Bouche—From *amuser* (to amuse) and *bouche* (mouth). It means little dishes to amuse the mouth. These are sampling portions prepared by chefs to whet the appetite before the first course. I like referring to it as "teasers" to a meal.

Degustation—From tasting food, the art of tasting. These are little portions served to sample the chef's favorite or signature dishes. It is usually a meal of eight or more courses, served in smaller portions to enable the diner to fully experience the chef's talent, specialties and the diversity of flavors.

Kaiseki—A Japanese tasting menu, similar to a *degustation*. It highlights the freshest ingredients of the season, elaborately plated and presented in beautiful Japanese dinnerware.

HER MOTHER'S/ D3

SUNSHINE PUEY and mom Bella Yuchengco: The romance with food continues through generations.



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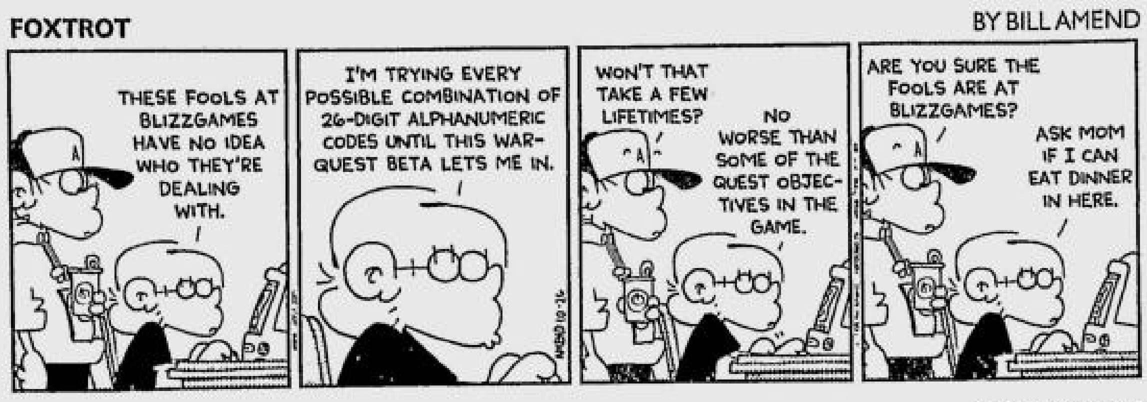
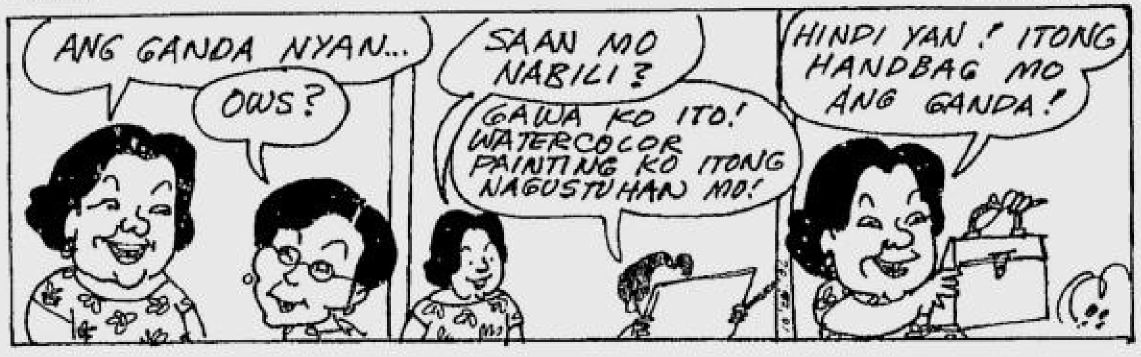
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THESE FOOLS AT BLIZZGAMES HAVE NO IDEA WHO THEY'RE DEALING WITH.
I'M TRYING EVERY POSSIBLE COMBINATION OF 26-DIGIT ALPHANUMERIC CODES UNTIL THIS WAR-QUEST BETA LETS ME IN.
WON'T THAT TAKE A FEW LIFETIMES?
NO WORSE THAN SOME OF THE QUEST OBJECTIVES IN THE GAME.
ARE YOU SURE THE FOOLS ARE AT BLIZZGAMES?
ASK MOM IF I CAN EAT DINNER IN HERE.

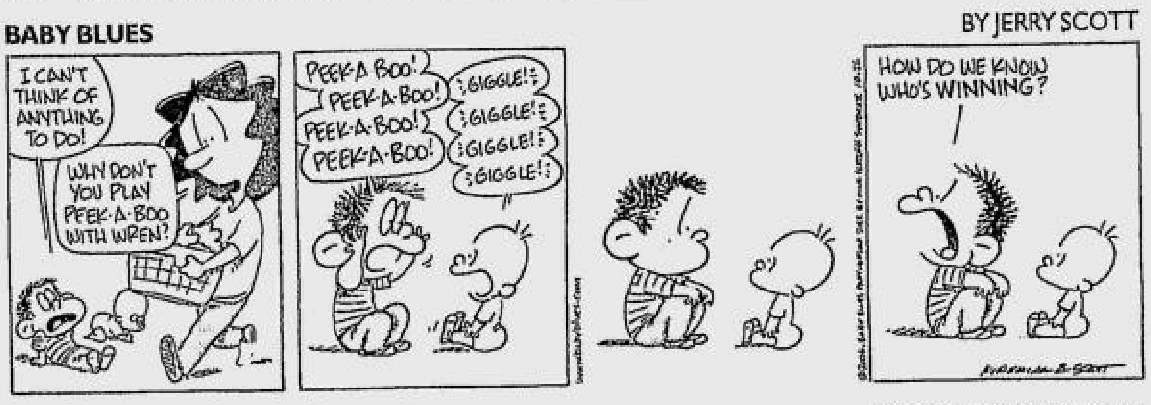
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GANDA NYAN...
OWS?
SAAN MO NABILI?
GAWA KO ITO! WATERCOLOR PAINTING KO ITONG NAGUSTUHAN MO!
HINDI YAN! ITONG HANDBAG MO ANG GANDA!

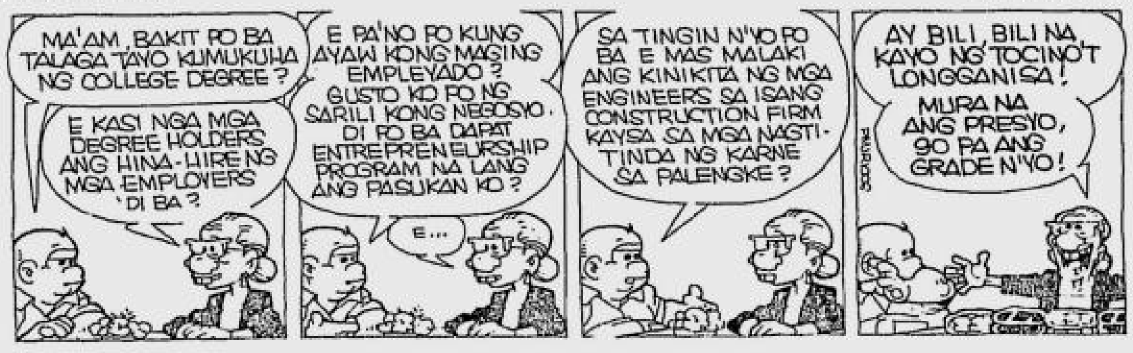
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DO!
WHY DON'T YOU PLAY PEEK-A-BOO WITH WREN?
PEEK-A-BOO! PEEK-A-BOO! PEEK-A-BOO! PEEK-A-BOO!
GIGGLE! GIGGLE! GIGGLE! GIGGLE!
HOW DO WE KNOW WHO'S WINNING?

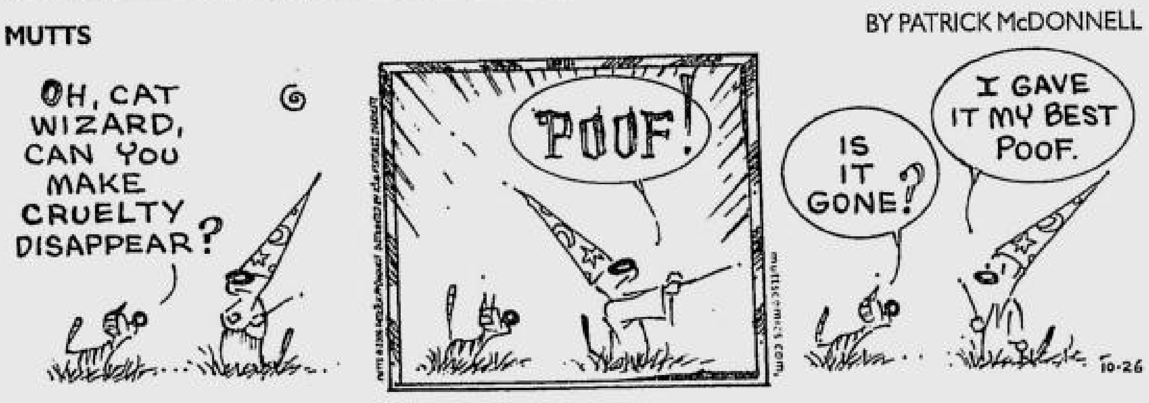
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MA'AM, BAKIT PO BA TALAGA TAYO KUMUKUHA NG COLLEGE DEGREE?
E KASI NGA MGA DEGREE HOLDERS ANG HINA-HIRE NG MGA EMPLOYERS 'DI BA?
E PA'NO PO KUNG AYAW KONG MAGING EMPLEYADO? GUSTO KO PO NG SARILI KONG NEGOSYO. DI PO BA DAPAT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM NA LANG ANG PASUKAN KO?
E...
SA TINGIN N'YO PO BA E MAS MALAKI ANG KINIKITA NG MGA ENGINEERS SA ISANG CONSTRUCTION FIRM KAYSA SA MGA NAGTI-TINDA NG KARNE SA PALENGKE?
AY BILI, BILI NA KAYO NG TOCINO'T LONGGANISA!
MURA NA ANG PRESYO, 90 PA ANG GRADE N'YO!

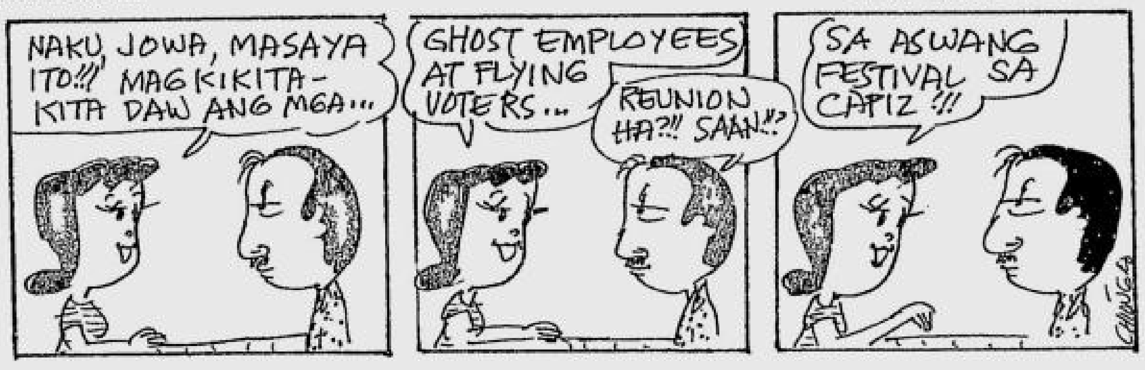
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, CAT WIZARD, CAN YOU MAKE CRUELTY DISAPPEAR?
POOF!
IS IT GONE?
I GAVE IT MY BEST POOF.
10-26

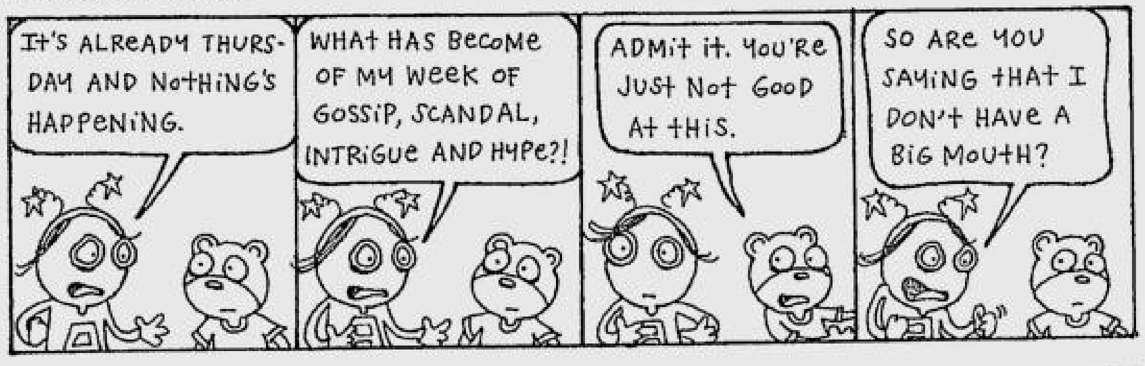
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKU, JOWA, MASAYA ITO!!! MAGKIKITA-KITA DAW ANG MGA...
GHOST EMPLOYEES AT FLYING VOTERS...
REUNION HA?!! SAAN!?
SA ASWANG FESTIVAL SA CAPIZ!!!

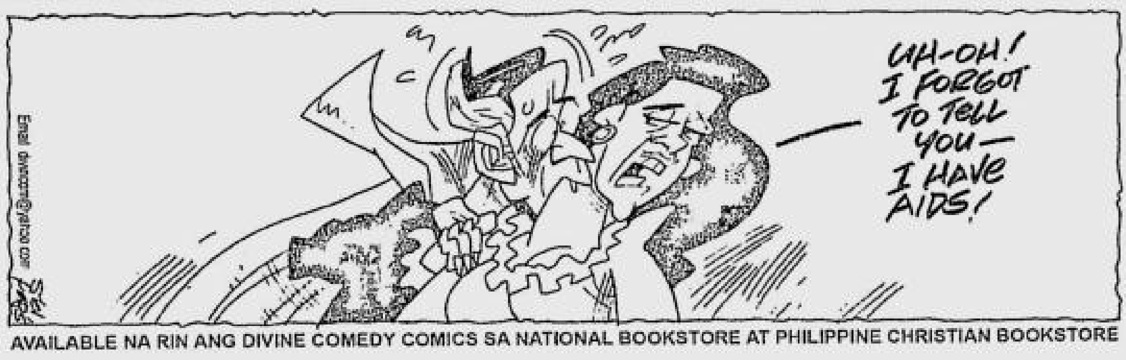
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


IT'S ALREADY THURSDAY AND NOTHING'S HAPPENING.
WHAT HAS BECOME OF MY WEEK OF GOSSIP, SCANDAL, INTRIGUE AND HYPE?!
ADMIT IT. YOU'RE JUST NOT GOOD AT THIS.
SO ARE YOU SAYING THAT I DON'T HAVE A BIG MOUTH?

DIVINE COMEDY

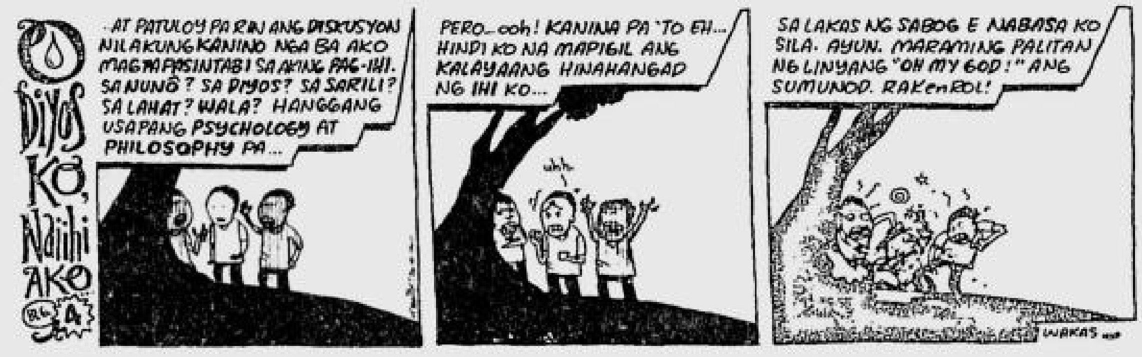
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


UH-OH! I FORGOT TO TELL YOU— I HAVE AIDS!

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

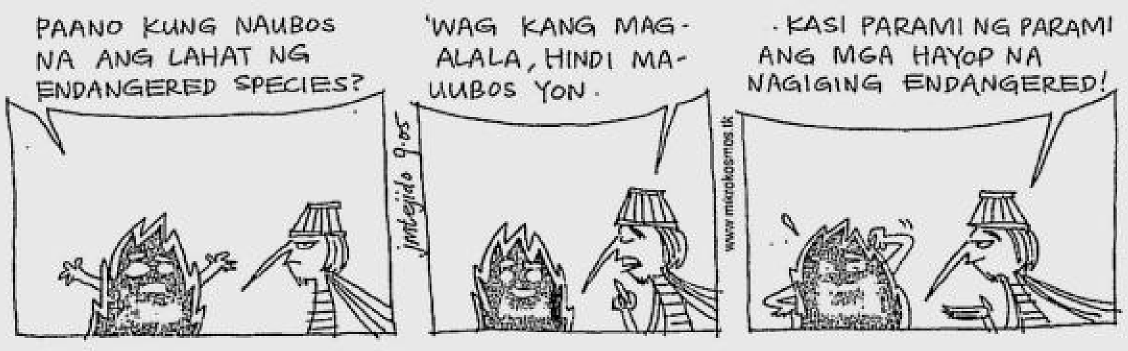
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


DIYOS KO, NAIIHI AKO
...AT PATULOY PA RIN ANG DISKUSYON NILA KUNG KANINO NGA BA AKO MAGPAPASINTABI SA AKING PAG-IHI. SA NUNO? SA DIYOS? SA SARILI? SA LAHAT? WALA? HANGGANG USAPANG PSYCHOLOGY AT PHILOSOPHY PA...
PERO... ooh! KANINA PA 'TO EH... HINDI KO NA MAPIGIL ANG KALAYAANG HINAHANGAD NG IHI KO...
SA LAKAS NG SABOG E NABASA KO SILA. AYUN. MARAMING PALITAN NG LINYANG "OH MY GOD!" ANG SUMUNOD. RAKenROL!
WAKAS

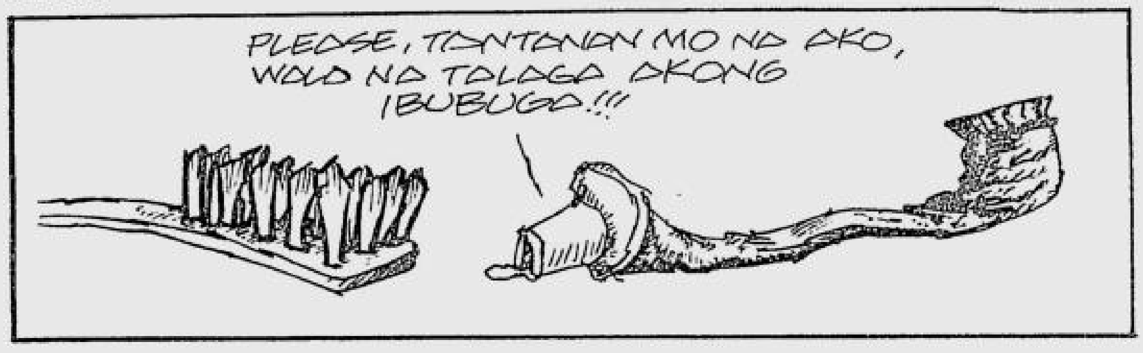
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAANO KUNG NAUBOS NA ANG LAHAT NG ENDANGERED SPECIES?
'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA, HINDI MAUUBOS YON.
KASI PARAMI NG PARAMI ANG MGA HAYOP NA NAGIGING ENDANGERED!

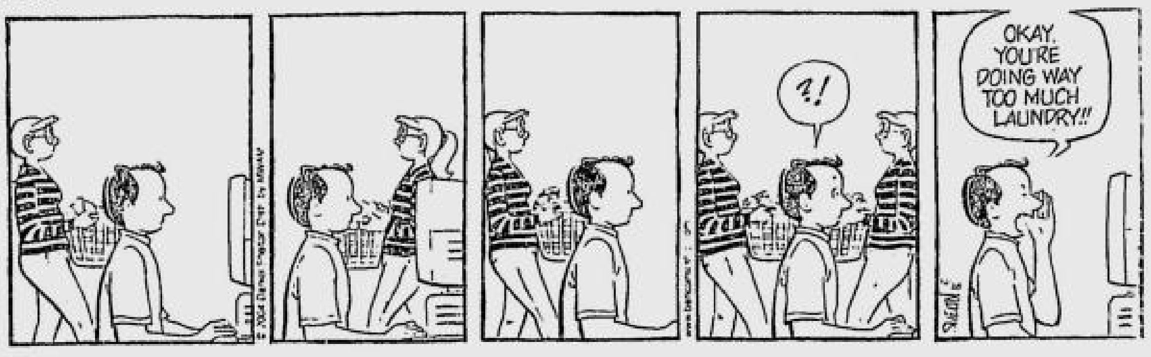
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

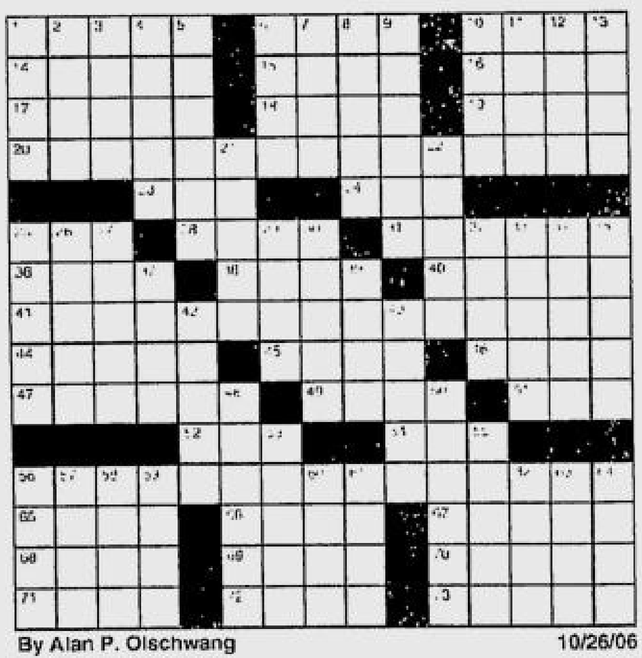

PLEASE, TANTANAN MO NA AKO, WALA NA TALAGA AKONG IBUBUGA!!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


?!
OKAY. YOU'RE DOING WAY TOO MUCH LAUNDRY!!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

10/26/06

ACROSS
1 Lots of land
6 Tune
10 Slope runners
14 Flash of reflected light
15 Explorer Heyerdahl
16 Printer's measure
17 Extent covered
18 Shortened bullets?
19 Water pitcher
20 Start of Evan Esar quip
23 Urban RRs
24 Aachen article
25 Besmirch
28 Wild guess
31 LDS part
36 Mispickel and feldspar
38 Fencer's foil
40 Dry-heat bath
41 Part 2 of quip
44 Online letters
45 Frank Herbert novel
46 Withered
47 Help wanted word?
49 Gull cousin
51 Comic Skelton
52 Astronaut Jemison
54 Ref. set member
56 End of quip
65 Don
66 Created
67 Total
68 Bear in the sky
69 Idyllic place
70 Sufficiently polite
71 Emulate a beaver
72 What's left
73 Opponent

DOWN
1 Taj Mahal locale
2 Attired
3 City on the Truckee
4 Two under par
5 Odors
6 Lead actress
7 Resistance units
8 Perpetual traveler
9 Kowtow
10 Risked getting a ticket
11 Fruit with green pulp
12 Freezes
13 Actress Gilbert
21 Fall bloomer
22 Clear the blackboard
25 Dial-up device
26 Odor
27 Pass along
29 Mimicked
30 Humdinger
32 Small boys
33 Edible root
34 Accustom
35 X- or H-follower
37 Finished a steal
39 Sea eagle
42 Dollar rental rival
43 Brazenness
48 Whine
50 Newbie
53 Keep clear of
55 Russian ruler
56 Wallop
57 Bring home the bacon
58 Kudrow of "Friends"
59 Sketch
60 Fateful day for Caesar
61 Smallest part of a buck
62 Engage in a diatribe
63 Slight of build
64 Compatriot

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	A	M	■	M	I	L	D	■	T	A	M	P	A
[illegible]	A	P	I	■	A	N	O	A	■	A	D	A	[illegible]	H
A	D	[illegible]	T	■	I	T	E	R	■	B	A	R	[illegible]	S
C	H	A	S	[illegible]	I	[illegible]	S	I	D	J	M	M	Y	■
K	E	N	■	E	A	R	S	■	E	L	S	A	■	■
■	■	■	C	A	I	N	■	A	B	A	■	[illegible]	A	M
A	T	T	A	R	■	■	A	L	B	■	A	A	R	E
D	R	U	G	S	N	I	F	F	I	N	G	D	O	G
D	I	R	E	■	A	P	T	■	■	A	R	E	N	A
S	O	N	■	E	D	O	■	B	E	T	A	■	■	■
■	■	T	A	M	F	■	S	L	A	T	■	C	U	F
■	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	Y	R	A	T	S
H	A	B	I	T	■	N	O	U	N	■	U	R	[illegible]	S
T	I	L	D	E	■	N	O	S	E	■	D	I	C	E
S	I	L	E	D	■	A	P	L	R	■	[illegible]	B	A	N

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10/26/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong reforming instincts: You want to make the world a better place. You understand the dynamics of society and how power is used. You appear fearless because you are in control of your emotions. You're practical and always plan ahead. You have good money savvy. This year might be one of the best years of your life! **Birthdate of:** Hillary Rodham Clinton, politician; Bob Hoskins, actor; Pat Sajak, TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel very passionate about certain issues now—perhaps something connected with publishing, the media or traveling somewhere. School concerns are also important.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You'll defend your turf when it comes to making decisions about shared possessions or jointly held property today. You're not going to give away the farm.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with partners and close friends are very intense today. You might decide to quit something or terminate a situation. Feelings are running high!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have solid ideas about how to improve where you work today. Start by getting rid of whatever you no longer need around the place. Throw it out, sell it or recycle it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Flirtations and love affairs are exciting today! You might be attracted to someone. You're also possibly excited about sports and games.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Clean up bathroom and laundry areas today. Reorganize garbage situations or places that are dark or hidden. Get rid of whatever is no longer necessary to have around.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are so intense and direct today! This makes all your communications effective and memorable to others. You have the mind of a sleuth right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel compulsive about wanting to spend your money on something or to buy something you want very much today. Are you being sensible? (Save your receipts.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Power struggles with others are highly likely today. You might also attract unusually powerful people to you today. ("Hi, Darth.") Be cool.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Secrets might be revealed to you today. If so, be discreet. Treat this information the way you would want someone to treat it if it were about you. (What goes around comes around.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with a friend, probably a female friend, are very intense today. Try to take everything with a grain of salt. Your emotions could distract you from the truth of the situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is not a good day to be pushy with parents, bosses or VIPs. The more aggressive you get, the greater opposition you will incur. Postpone important discussions until tomorrow, which is a far better day.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

4		1						6
		2			9			
		3		7		1	8	5
	6							
		4		3		6		
							2	
7	1	9		6		5		
			2			8		
5						4		1

Difficulty Level ★★★

10

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	8	4	1	2	7	5	3
5	3	4	6	7	9	2	1	8
7	2	1	3	8	5	9	4	6
3	9	2	7	5	6	1	8	4
6	8	5	9	4	1	3	2	7
1	4	7	8	2	3	6	9	5
8	1	3	5	9	7	4	6	2
4	7	9	2	6	8	5	3	1
2	5	6	1	3	4	8	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

Her mother's Sunshine

From page D1

Translations

I got a message from Margarita Delgado which read: "Reggie, I know this is silly but what is the the English equivalent of the vege *upo?*"

So to you, Margarita, and to all those wondering what it is, here's "Bahay Kubo," translated as best I could, just for you! Thanks to my good friend Fernando Aracama for pointing these websites out to me: www.stuartxchange.com (it's the best site for Filipino herb and vegetable translations) and bohol. ph/newbeads/pfs/bahaykubo. php).

Bahay kubo—Nipa hut

Kahit munti—Though small

Ang halaman doon ay sarisari —Must we really translate all these? Hahaha!

Singkamas at talong—Jicama and eggplant

Sigarilyas at mani—Winged beans and peanuts

Sitaw, bataw, patani—String or long beans, pot beans, lima beans

Kundol, patola, upo't kalabasa —White melon or wax gourd, sponge gourd or angled luffa, bottle or white pumpkin gourd and squash

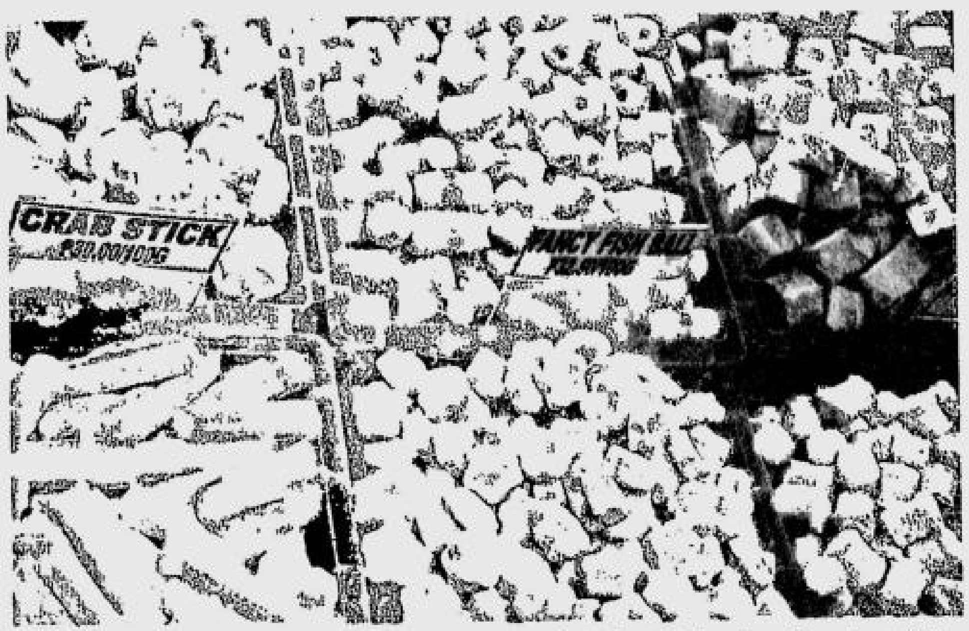
At saka mayro'n pang labanos, mustasa—And there is more; radish, mustard greens

Sibuyas, kamatis, bawang at luya—Onions, tomatoes, garlic and ginger

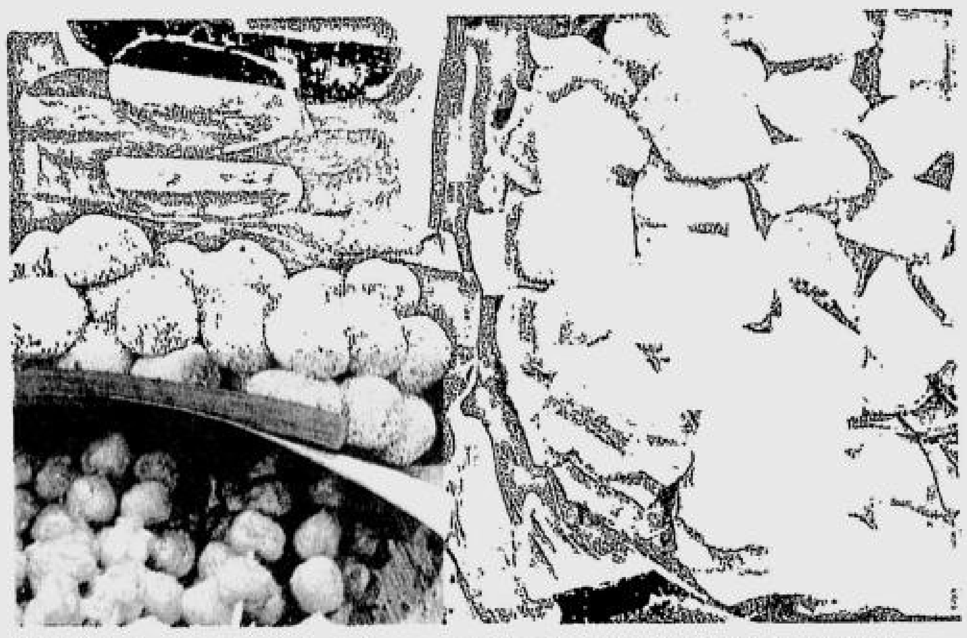
Sa paligid-ligid nito'y panay na linga—All around are lush sesame plants.

My class schedules for November to January are out. About to commence are The Holiday Cooking For Household Cooks/Helpers and my catering series Entertaining for the Holidays. Call 9289296, 9273008 or 7221691. For those wondering where I have moved to, I am now at the Smeg Showroom at 34 Wilson Street, Greenhills, San Juan.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



HAVE it steamed or fried. Crab balls with corn, crabsticks, shitake dumpling, fancy fish balls, salmon fish cakes are available at the shabu-shabu area.



***UBE lihiya, buchi, nilupak,* rice balls are available at the food bazaar during Saturdays and Sundays in SM Supermarket Makati.**

Great rush-hour shopping

RUSH-HOUR BUT HEALTHY SHOPPING is provided by SM Supermarket in Makati, which has a mini-market offering the freshest fruits and vegetables, ready-to-eat food, and even plants. Located in the Concourse area just outside the supermarket, it makes shopping quick and easy for busy customers.

Shoppers can pick out fresh fruits, vegetables, and even mixed salads without having to go inside the supermarket and go through the counter lines. Moreover, all the items are guaranteed to be of the highest quality and at very low prices.

Apart from the fresh fruits and veggies, the mini-market also has prepared food items for working moms. Its crispy *lechon* is a bestseller; ditto with the *paksiw na lechon* and *dinuguan*.

The food bazaar every Saturday and Sunday offers native *kakanin*, such as banana cake, *nilupak* and *ube lihiya*, and Chinese delicacies, such as *buchi* and rice balls.

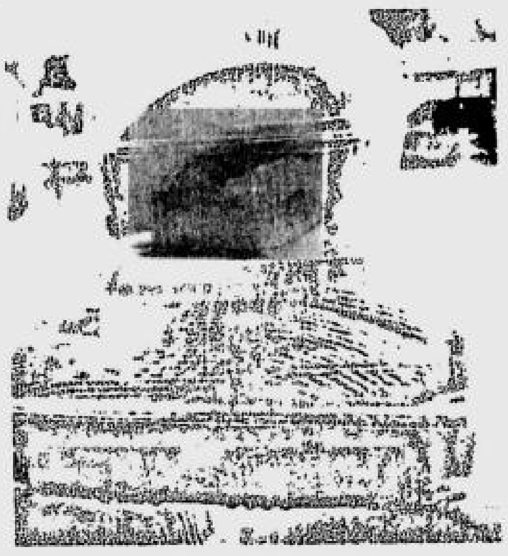
Also offered are breads and sugar-free sweets including Brazo de Mercedes.

Shoppers can also enjoy healthy snacks like freshly squeezed fruits, fresh fruit shakes, cooked Japanese sweet corn and steamed peanuts.

Shoppers may also try the street-food experience at the shabu-shabu area with its wide variety of shitake dumplings, crab balls and sticks, *chi kuwa*, fish dumbbells and salmon fish cakes.

There's also a garden of potted plants, cut flowers and gardening tools. Offered are bromeliads, Australian ferns, fortune plants, mini-money trees and parlor palms; herbs like oregano; and flowers like orchids, jasmine and mums.

The mini-market of SM Supermarket is at the ground floor of SM Makati. It's open 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. every day.



NOT to worry with this sugar-free Brazo de Mercedes

Philfoodex marks 20th year with 6th Phil Food Expo

THE PHILIPPINE FOOD PROCESSORS and Exporters' Organization (Philfoodex), the country's biggest umbrella organization of local food processors and exporters, celebrates its 20th anniversary with the Sixth Philippine Food Expo, Feb. 1-4, 2007, at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

After staging a successful expo last January, Philfoodex promises an even bigger event next year as it brings together the major food industry players, entrepreneurs and businessmen in the only all-Filipino consumer trade fair.

The 6th Philippine Food Expo will be the ultimate showcase of the best of Filipino food products from all over the country, geared toward helping the local manufacturers and processors with the belief that the food industry holds the key to economic recovery.

Together with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Trade and Industry-Citem and the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (Philexport), Philfoodex will showcase Filipino ingenuity, resourcefulness and creativity to further boost the growth of the food sector.

Expo participants include food processors, fresh and processed fruits, fresh and processed seafood, snack food and confectionery, bakery products, sauces and condiments, herbal/organic food, food equipment and packaging, food service, native delicacies and provincial cuisine.

Promotional rates are available for those who will register on or before Oct. 30. Call 6870654 or 6873292. E-mail cut@pldtdsl.net or visit www.philfoodex.org.

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Cemeteries are not garbage dumps

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

IT SEEMS INSTINCTIVE AMONG Filipinos to turn almost anything into a fiesta.

A wake is often as much an opportunity to pay one's respect to the dead as a chance for a family reunion or a get-together of long-lost friends.

The annual bar examination at the De La Salle University campus on Taft Avenue is as festive as any town fiesta.

Schools, fraternities, sororities and other campus organizations have colorful streamers and buntings wishing their colleagues good luck.

Fiesta is also very much the "theme" of the annual observance of All Saints Day on Nov. 1. What should theoretically be a solemn occasion, a time for remembering the departed, for contemplation and sober thoughts becomes just another excuse for fun-loving Pinoys to be merry.

Cemeteries become karaoke joints with people singing different tunes at different levels of competence and musicality. Packed meals are brought in or people go on picnics, cooking the food next to the tomb of their dearly beloved deceased relatives.

The irony is, after spending days, sometimes weeks, sprucing up the graveyards for this event—sometimes the only day when people remember to visit their dead—they often leave cemeteries as messy as (sometimes even more) before they descended on it.

While before the visit only weeds covered the graves, by the time the throng leaves, cemeteries are littered with soda cans and bottles, styrofoam and plastic glasses and food containers, paper and plastic wrappings, fruit peels and uneaten food, not to mention candle drippings and wilted flowers.

So, before Filipinos are overcome by the mass hysteria of observing All Saints Day, the Ecowaste Coalition is appealing to everyone marking the occasion to go for "simple, ecological, waste-free" celebration of All Souls Day.

If Filipinos truly love their dear departed, they should not turn their graves into wastelands, literally, on this special day.

The organization said, while the tradition of honoring the dead was admirable, the wasteful practices and unabashed littering obviously were not.

It pointed out, "The cemetery is a sacred place, not a dumpsite. We must take care of it, not defile it, as a sign of respect for those interred there."

The coalition asks administrators of both public and private cemeteries to designate "recycling stations to facilitate segregation of waste. Highly visible signs or posters should remind people not to litter, dump, or burn their waste.

At the same time, the coalition asks vendors and business owners to avoid using plastic bags, straws, cups and other single-use plastic items, and to try to avoid creating any garbage. Buyers should bring reusable bags for their purchases, and to refuse plastic bags and wrappers.

The Ecowaste Coalition also suggests:

- Using clean-burning candles that do not emit black fumes or ash. Only a reasonable number of candles should be lit.
- Offering local fresh flowers instead of plastic ones, and they should not be wrapped in plastic that eventually end up as garbage clogging waterways or emitting poisons when burned.
- Avoiding bringing or buying excessive amounts of food and beverage; avoiding the use of disposable plastic and styrofoam containers.
- Packing everything to be brought to the cemetery in reusable bags and baskets, instead of plastic bags.
- Throwing all discards into disposal bins and avoiding littering at all cost. If the cemetery or memorial park does not have facilities for proper waste disposal, discards should be carefully packed and brought home and disposed of the right way.

Church volunteer Ochie Tolentino, member of the steering committee member of the Ecowaste Coalition, said: "We hope the real meaning of our gathering and celebration will not be drowned in noise, chaos and garbage piles. All Souls Day is a sacred occasion to honor the memory of loved ones who had been part of our lives and to offer prayers for their eternal comfort and peace in the afterlife."

The Ecowaste Coalition can be reached at 9290376.

Tip

Mosquitoes may be a problem for those going to cemeteries. In "Gardening Magic," Joey Green suggests the use of sheets of Bounce Classic. Apparently, the scent of oleander repels the insects.

Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

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* PC can be powered down but must be plugged in with the socket switch turned on. Requires the cooperation of optional Intel® vPRO™ Technology compliant client and server software.
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Bacon isn't just for breakfast

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF CULINARY Arts is conducting the following classes:

Oct. 27—Bacon (all new)—Bacon Salad with Smoked Apples, Onion Flan with Veal Schnitzels and Bacon Potato Salad, Sea Bass with Sweet Bacon and Chutney, Bacon Balsamic Chicken, Rib-eye Steaks with Bacon Sauce, Garlic Bacon Beef Stew

Oct. 28—Shellfish '06 (all new)—Oyster Platter 6 Kinds—Cold: with Fresh Mangoes, Ginger Salsa, Orange; Hot: Caviar and Foie Gras, Rockefeller, Smoked. Mussels: a la Plancha and in Orange Sauce. Plus three of my favorite scallop recipes

Oct. 30—My Thanksgiving Feast '06 (all new)—Duck a l'Orange Salad, Cream of Chestnut Soup, Turkey with Garlic Confit Served with Terrine Stuffing and three sauces and side dishes; dessert buffet of three of my favorite chocolate dessert recipes

Nov. 3—Deliciously Madeira (all new) —Seafood Bisque, Madeira Roast Beef, Salmon with Madeira Mushrooms, Madeira and Madeira Chicken Roast, Madeira Risotto, Zabagione Tart; sides.

Call 9289296 or 9273008.

Back to Manila for 'kitchen' tour

"MOBILE KUSINA" IS RETURNING TO MANILA as it winds down its February-November mall tour. Top regional chefs were featured in "Mobile Kusina" that used San Miguel Pure Foods Corp. products.

Shoppers all over the country were treated to live cooking demonstrations and a lecture on practical cooking. They were introduced to easy and delicious recipes for everyday meals, edible gifts, additions to their offerings if they are in the food business, etc.

Back in Metro Manila for the close of the tour, Sylvia Reynoso-Gala, along with chefs Morella and Ernest Reynoso-Gala, will be the guest demonstrators at SM Megamall. To be featured are Noche Buena feasts.

San Miguel Pure Foods products helped make the countrywide "Mobile Kusina at the Mall" tour possible: Magnolia Chicken, Monterey Meats, Purefoods Hormel, Dari Creme, Magnolia Quickmelt, Purefoods Supremo Vinegar, Magnolia Nutri-Oil.

Other sponsors were GE Appliances, Ariston Ovens and Ranges, Glad Wraps, Sunnex Cookware, GMA-7 and SM Supermalls.

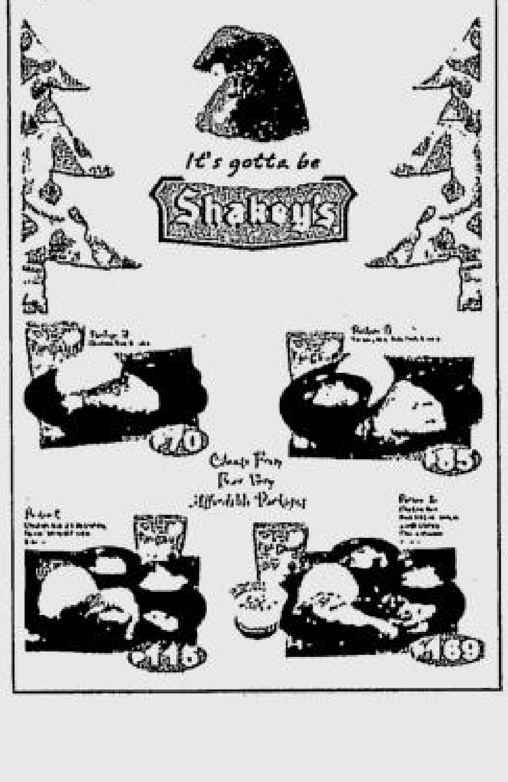
Chain offers Xmas packages

SHAKEY'S HAS PREPARED FOUR affordable Christmas packages for family or corporate events.

The four packages range in prices from P70 per person to P169.

Shakey's also offers items which can be given away as gifts to guests like thermal mugs, umbrellas, travel kits, car shades, bull caps and bags.

Shakey's has a nationwide network of 95 restaurants. Call 8390011 and a Shakey's representative will help you plan your celebration.

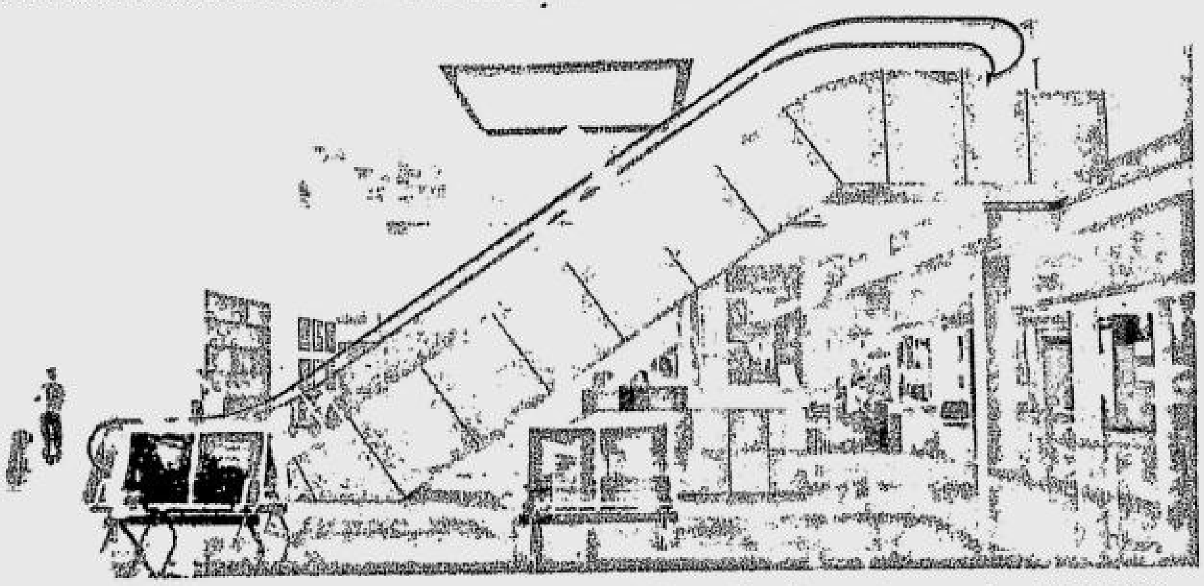

It's gotta be
Shakey's
70
85
Choose From Four Very Affordable Packages
115
169

WILCON BUILDERS' DEPOT SUPPLEMENT

Hardware superstore opens 6th depot in Alabang

Wilcon Builder's Depot is truly a one-stop shop for all your building needs. Everything you need--from tiles to bathrooms, wood doors, shingle, aluminum windows, paints, etc.--all under one roof

WILCON BUILDERS' DEPOT



Wilcon has been in the business of making our homes beautiful and functional for 29 years. Established in 1977 in Quezon City as a small hardware store for building and finishing materials, the company grew and expanded to several retail outlets and store depots

FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING AND renovating needs, even furnishing needs, a Wilcon Builders' Depot, the country's pioneer in homebuilding depots, need not be far behind.

Wilcon Builders' Depot opened its latest branch in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang to cater to the building needs of Alabang homeowners, Filinvest residents, and nearby Muntinlupa and Parañaque, Tagaytay, Laguna, and Cavite homeowners.

The outlet, which sits on a 1.5 hectare lot, is a huge structure that offers a 12,000 square meter store space and a 6,500 square meter parking lot that can easily accommodate 202 vehicles.

The store has four major divisions. The tile gallery is an expansive space where tiles from different countries and a thousand varieties are presented in modules or sample floor layouts. Take your pick from the most affordable tiles to the high-end brands from Italy and Spain.

The DIY (Do-It-Yourself) section offers the most complete selection of hardware and homebuilding tools. Here, you can choose items you need at home from the wide selection of wood products, hardware, kitchen and bathroom organizers, electrical and plumbing tools and gadgets, and aluminum, steel, plastic and glass products for doors, windows, and cabinets.

Shopping is comfortable among the airconditioned, spacious and bright hallways of the store. Looking for the things you need is easy as the presentation of products is very organized.

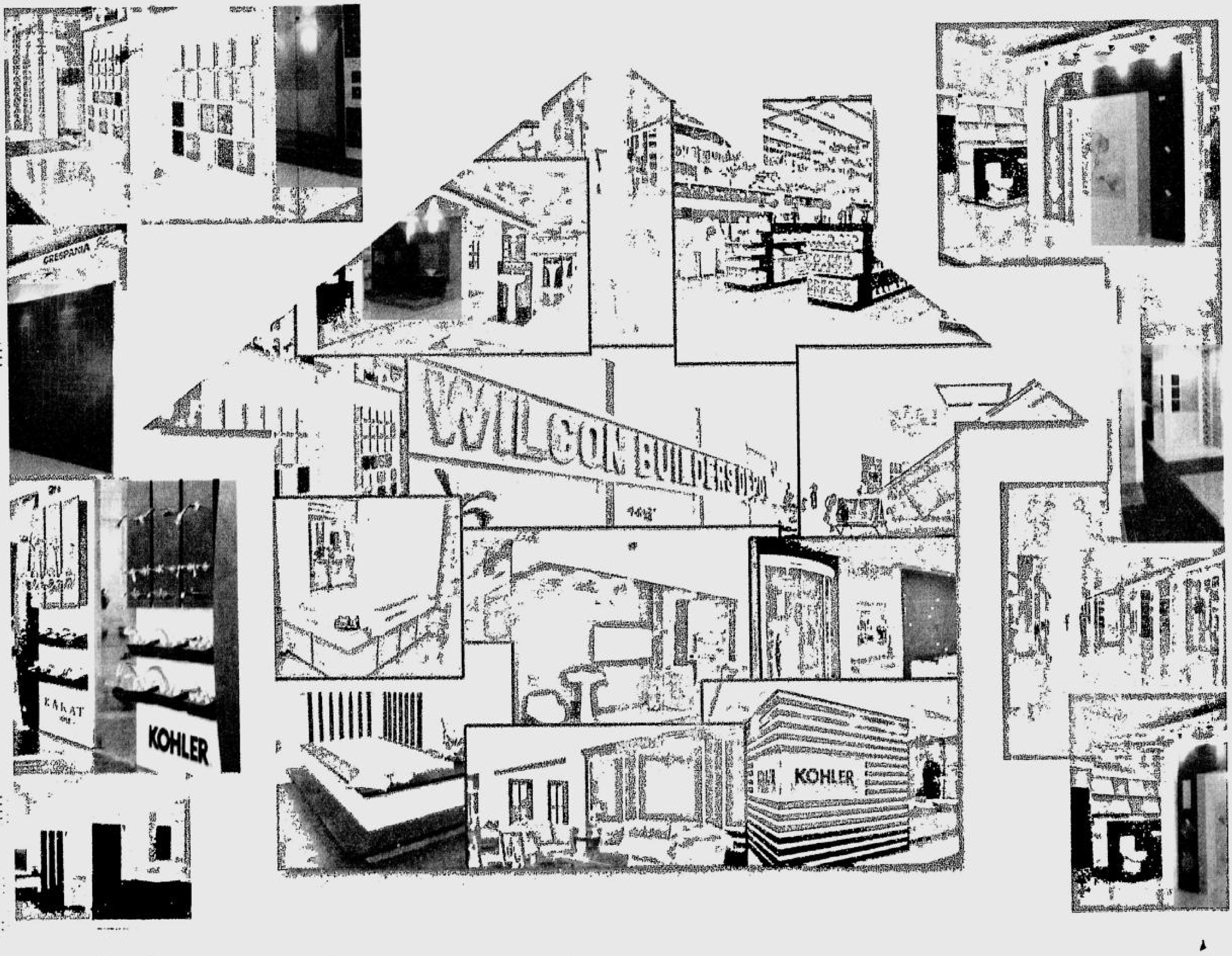
The second floor of the store is a definitive showroom of the latest and trendiest bathrooms. And the bathroom layouts are operational, meaning--a customer can try the fixtures to make him experience the setting. This floor also houses an eye-catching furniture and fixture section, where a customer can already envision the type of furnishings he needs for his house.

To make a customer's stay at Wilcon Builders' Depot a convenient and memorable one, the Alabang outlet features a casual dining restaurant. Shoppers and their families can unwind here. And there's also a kiddie area where shoppers can drop off their kids while they enjoy shopping and appreciating the beautiful floor and showroom layout.

Wilcon has been in the business of making our homes beautiful and functional for 29 years. Established in 1977 in Quezon City as a small hardware store for building and finishing materials, the company grew and expanded to several retail outlets and store depots. Wilcon has eight supply stores in Metro Manila, including one in Davao and six depots. More Wilcon stores will open in the future. Wilcon Depots are in Libis, Balintawak and Quirino in Quezon City, Pasong Tamo, Makati City, and Alabang and Filinvest, Muntinlupa. Wilcon Supply stores are in Muñoz, Quezon Avenue, Libis, Mindanao Ave. in Quezon City, Las Piñas City, Ortigas, Pasay and Davao Matina, Davao City.

Wilcon pioneered convenience shopping for hardware and building products through its introduction of air-conditioned shops, more products from abroad, reliable delivery service, expert salespeople and big one-stop-shops.

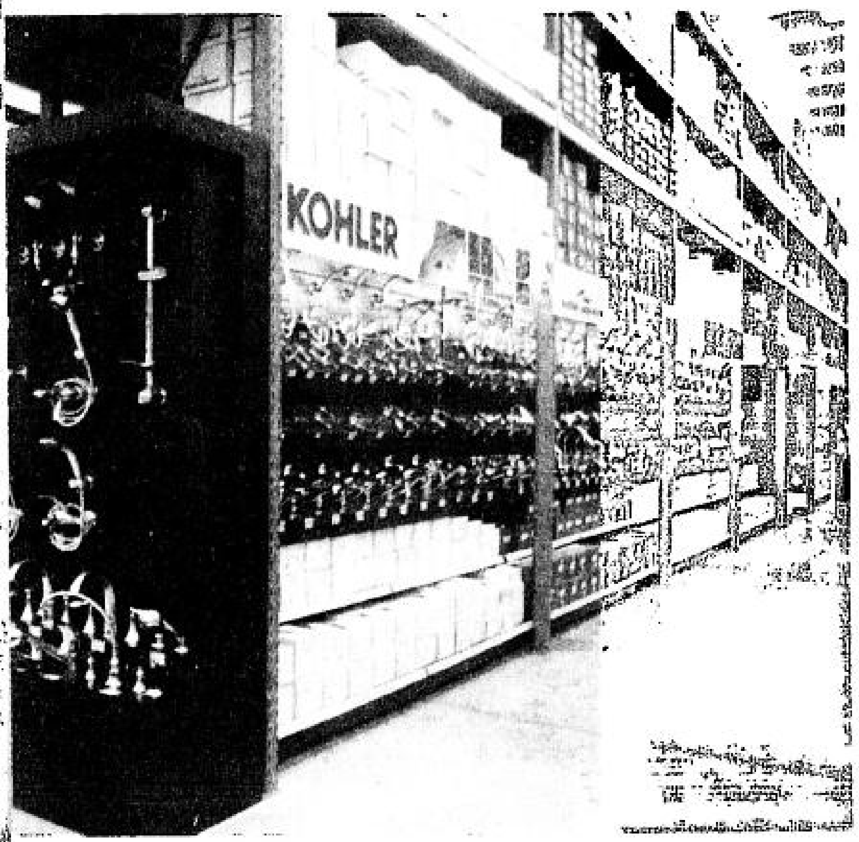
Wilcon's commitment to excellent service has propelled it to become the leader in supplying finishing materials for the country's building industry.

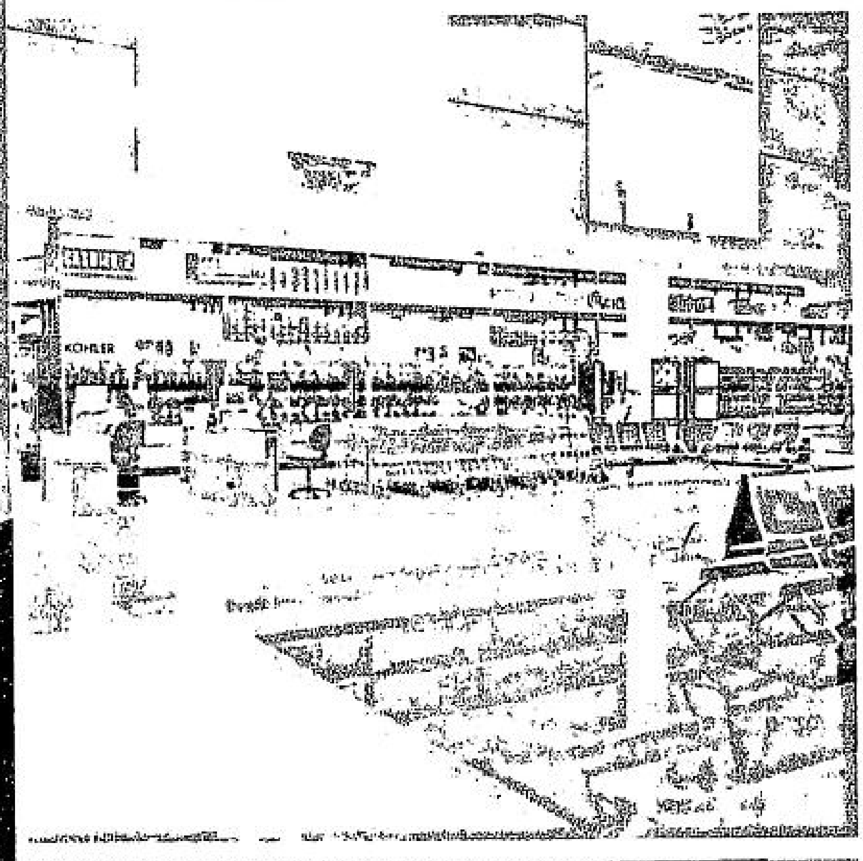


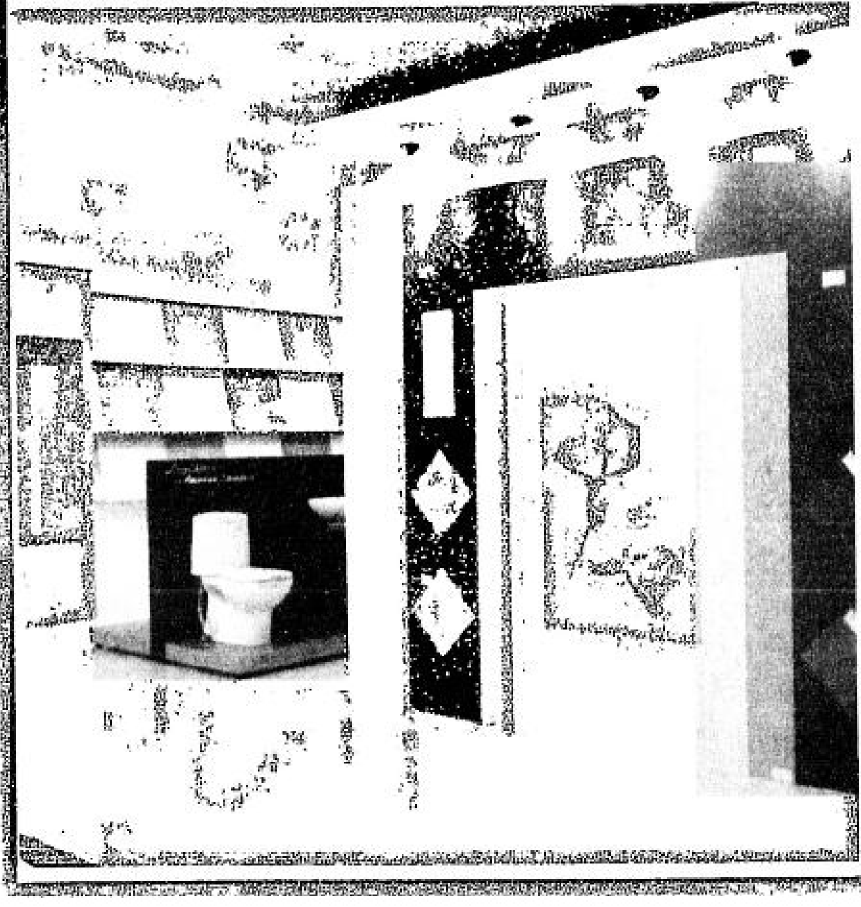
WILCON BUILDERS DEPOT SUPPLEMENT

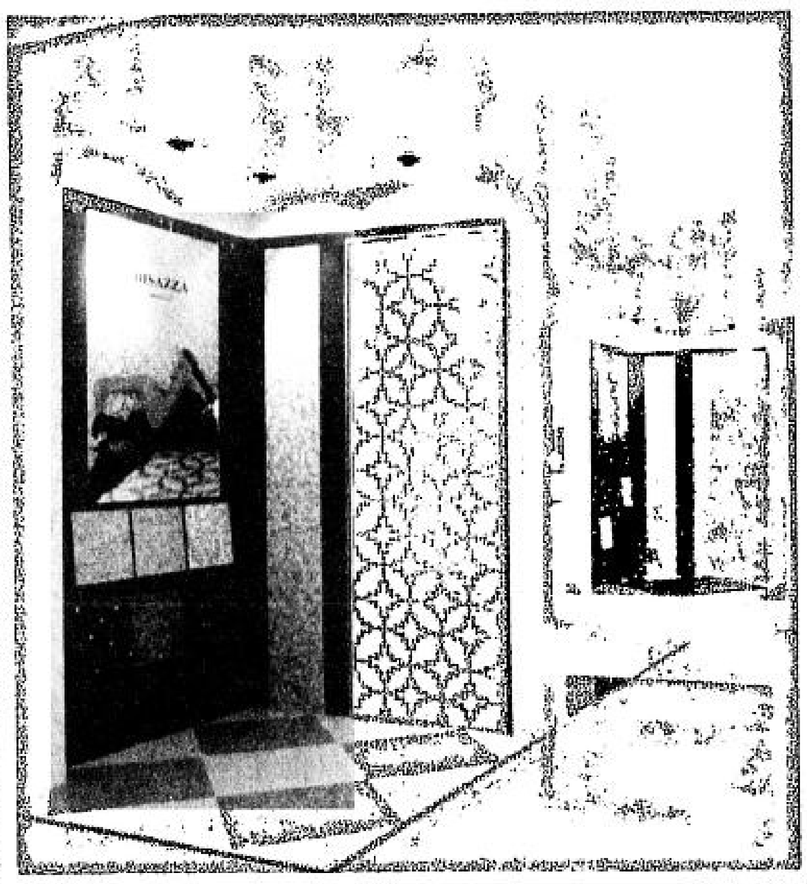
Homeowner's
Alab

Wilcon Filinvest Alabang is the biggest home center, truly a one-stop-sh
living room, dining area, kitchen, bathroom, the garden, including DIY (d









By Raquel P. Gomez

THE EXPERIENCE OF A VISIT TO THE newly opened Wilcon Builders Depot in Filinvest Alabang is almost similar to getting inside the pages of Beautiful Homes Magazine and getting great design ideas.

Need ideas on how your bathroom should look like? Need ideas on what tiles to use on your patio? What about your kitchen? How will the tiles you've chosen match the flooring? Will a bit of stone tiles be nice in your living room to highlight the glazed white wall?

At Wilcon, building, designing or upgrading your homes is made easy with presentations of actual sample layouts of bathrooms, living rooms, and kitchens in the showroom area.

"We want our customers to experience the interiors and exteriors of their homes with the sample design modules. The modules are very suggestive and very interactive, making visualizations of home section layout and finish for the customers easier. Once a customer walks through the modules, he or she would appreciate how a particular design or layout should be done," said Rosemarie Bosch Ong, Wilcon's EVP for marketing.

To find the right kind of tiles, say, for your living room or kitchen, all you have to do is step onto an area or corner layout with wall-to-wall family of tiles and photos of living room or kitchen designs using those type of tiles. Just by standing there and experiencing the colors and textures the tiles give, will definitely help you decide on the finishing of your house. The tile gallery is an expansive space showcasing the biggest number of tiles from Italy, Spain, Indonesia, China and the Philippines.

Check out the high-end products—elegant Italian tiles Novabell, Saime, Isla, Campani, Candia and Bisazza; stylish Spanish tiles Rocersa, Grespania, Keros, Tesany, Baldocer and Alcalagres, and American sanitary wares brand Kohler. Also offered are Asian tile brands such as Karat Sanitary Wares, Roman Gres, Sol Ceramica, Malaci, Arte, Bello Cera, and well-known local brands such as Mariwasa, Lepanto, Tenzen, Pioneer, Italfil, GT Stoneworks, Vasquez Paver, MGS Paver, HCG Sanitary Wares, American Standard, Toto, and more.

This store doesn't just give you an idea on how to decorate and furnish your home. It can literally overwhelm. Located at the second floor of the behemoth store are different presentations of sophisticated bathroom showcases and a furniture arena.

Wilcon recently partnered with world-famous and sought-after American brand Kohler, a company that offers complete showering solutions. Wilcon carries Kohler lavatories that are exceptional in quality, innovative in design, and with artistic craftsmanship.

Karat Sanitary wares by Kohler comes in a wide variety of colors and style that will match your bathroom's motif or theme. On the other hand, eye-catching and durable Karat faucets can complement your bathroom décor.

For comfort in the bathroom, opt for Kasch bathtubs and whirlpools. German-designed, they come in bold shapes and made from strong reinforced acrylic.

Pozzi sanitary wares, on the other hand, have an extensive range of quality bathroom suite and technical superiority. The products reflect the cus-

Paradise in
ang

op offering a complete line of tiles, furniture and accessories for one's o-it-yourself) hardware section

tomer's personal taste for fashion, art and design.

For all your lavatory needs, local brands are not far behind in make and quality. Check out HCG Bathroom fixtures, American Standard, Toto Sanitary Wares, and Royal Tern. Truly, there's a product suitable for every budget, taste and style.

Ong said the added advantage of shopping at Wilcon is the presence of an interior designer at the Designer's Corner. Here, customers can get free advice and tips regarding tiles, bathroom fixtures, and furniture. A customer can even bring a floor plan of his house and the Wilcon staff can help make the most out his purchases.

On the other hand, individuals with already furnished and finished homes could still get ideas on how to update the look of their living spaces or just upgrade some areas.

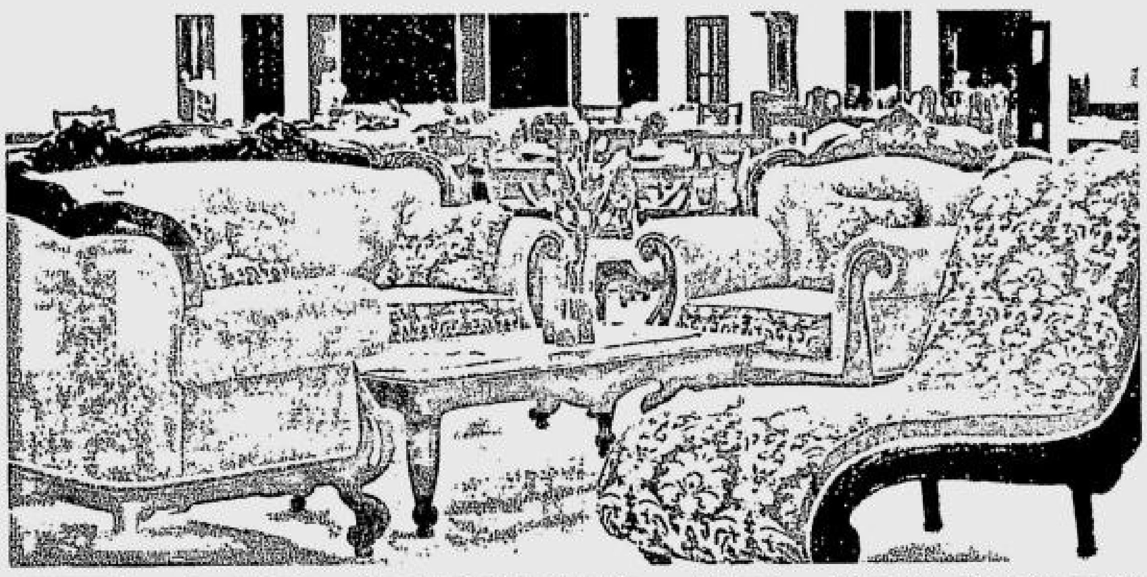
Wilcon's sales staff are among the friendliest and most knowledgeable in any retail store. Service is personalized; the goal is to achieve full customer satisfaction, a quality Ong is very proud of. "Our staff undergoes continuous training to ensure they stay up-to-date on their knowledge about the products that they're handling."

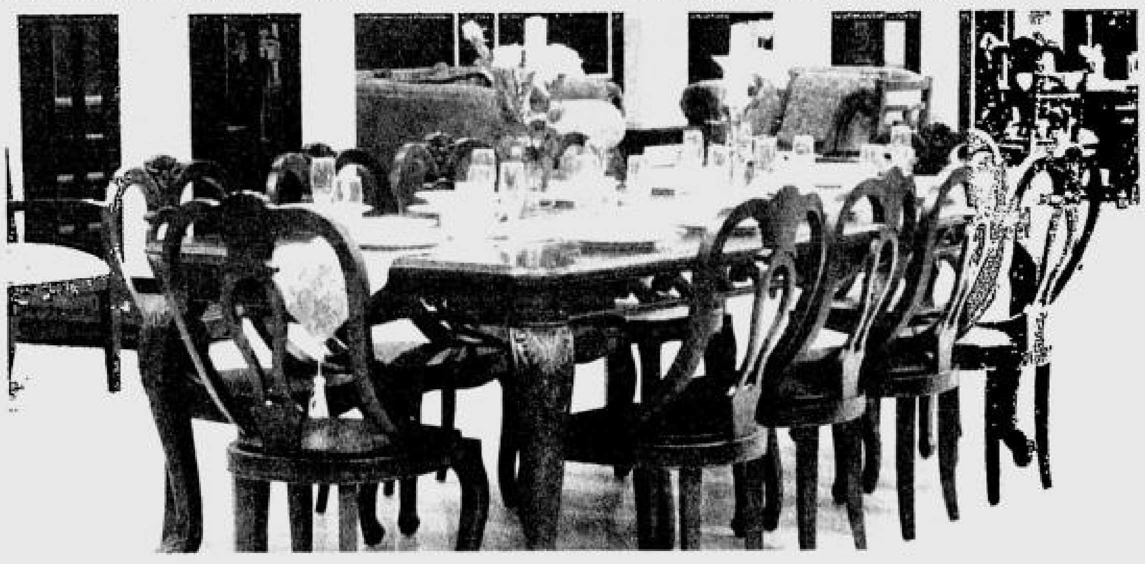
Located at the right side of the store is the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) section. This section offers the most complete selection of hardware and homebuilding tools, featuring brands such as BLUM, Yale, Stanley, Schlage, Bosch, Makita, Wellmax, and Bellini. It also carries a big section of wood products, plumbing products, and a paint mixing station.

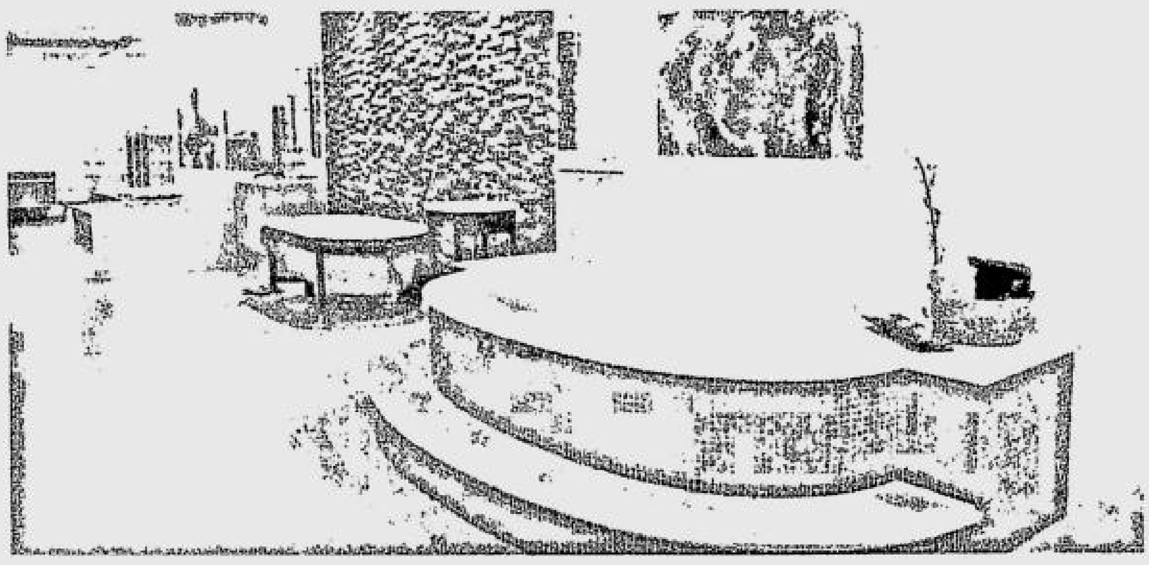
Ong said whatever the budget a customer has, he or she can be accommodated at the store. The store offers products for everyone, from the affordable to the high-end ones.

Wilcon Builders Depot sits on a 1.5-hectare lot and offers 12,000 square meters of showroom and store area. Parking is a breeze, as 202 vehicles can be accommodated at the store's 6,500 square-meter parking lot.

"Usually after a visit at Wilcon, new homeowners with no iota of idea of how to design their living rooms or pads would always go home inspired and happy with the items they purchased," said Ong.







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A BIG NUMBER OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL homes and living spaces in the country credits Wilcon Builder's Depot for grand transformations. Wilcon takes pride in bringing to the country the best building and finishing products from different countries, and thereby influencing homeowner's decisions with regard to beautiful home finishes.

At Wilcon, the best brands of the most exquisite bathroom fixtures and sanitary wares, kitchen equipment, and tiles of every imaginable make, shape and size gather under one roof.

Wilcon recently partnered with world famous and sought-after American brand Kohler, a company that offers complete showering solutions, with lavatories that are exceptional in quality, innovative in design, and with artistic craftsmanship.

Karat Sanitary wares by Kohler comes in a wide variety of colors and style that will match your bathroom's motif or theme. On the other hand, eye-catching and durable Karat faucets can complement your bathroom décor.

For comfort in the bathroom, opt for Kasch bathtubs and whirlpools. They are German-designed, come in bold shapes, and are made from strong reinforced acrylic.

Products bearing Bellini Collezioni brands are a full range of classy Italian-inspired faucets and bathroom accessories that will match any kind of wares for the budget conscious homeowners.

Pozzi sanitary wares have an extensive range of quality bathroom suite and technical superiority. The products reflect the customer's personal taste for fashion, art and design.

Tiles from Spain speak of the wonderful courtyards and of living rooms immersed in wonderful light and colors. Grespania is an impressive collection of tiles, simple yet sophisticated and elegant. Rocersa tiles are classics that match modern materials. Alcalagres are large format porcelain tiles offering natural elegance for the home.

Warm and cozy Keros tiles have a touch of sunny naturalism and rustic appeal. Tesany tiles suit any traditional-themed setting, highlighting cozy and relaxing homey atmosphere.

Top-of-the-line Italian tiles give warmth, gay colors and homey settings typical of hillside Italian villas and modern hideaways. Novabell tiles are meticulously designed to make rich textures complement their exuberant colors. Saime tiles are of the same level as of Italian art, reflecting high energy from the rigorous perspective geometrism.

Candia tiles possess unique sizes to match any interior, giving warm ambience with the elegant touch of pure porcelain. Isla tiles are highly fashionable, evocative of Italian's love for well-made ceramics. Campani has the natural look of stone which features various shapes and surfaces to match the look of real stone flooring, suiting any indoor or outdoor space.

Tiles from Indonesia reveal intricate craftsmanship and distinctiveness. Roman tiles are ceramic tiles of outstanding glamour, while Malaci tiles are large tiles that can make your floor look spacious.

Other brands under Wilcon's roof never fail to inspire and astonish. Muy Bellos Muebles are a range of the best Italian furniture. Products bearing Rubi brand include professional tools from manual tile cutters to electric saws. Ariston Electric water heaters offer the most energy efficient water heaters in the market today.

Wilson Granite lasts a lifetime. Wellmax kitchen organizers keep everything in place. Crown sinks are very easy to maintain. Jinghua glass blocks can add more light to an area. Arte Ceramiche includes decorative pieces to add accents. And Bisazza Mosaico is the best glass mosaic maker in the world.

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Wilcon takes pride in bringing to the country the best names and brands in building and finishing, from different countries to make our living spaces beautiful and functional

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Cherry Pie is free and independent

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Newly single actress plays a different kind of mom in a new digital movie from Seiko

AWARD-WINNING actress Cherry Pie Picache counts herself lucky that she gets to play diverse roles on-screen.

"I used to be the best friend of all best friends," she jokes. "At least, now, I get to play different kinds of women."

This year, she has juggled various screen personas: A wacky mom of gay sons ("Manay Po"), a harassed daughter of separating parents ("I Wanna Be Happy"), a gun-toting mob boss ("Twilight Dancers"), as well as stock mother roles of Star Cinema contract players ("First Day High" and the forthcoming "Huwag Kang Lilingon").

Two of her biggest challenges, however, are roles in two films by independent director Brillante "Dante" Mendoza: The lesbian tricycle driver in "Kaleldo" (which opens Nov. 1) and the impoverished adoptive mother in "Foster" (which starts shooting second week of November).

While the former is produced by Dante's own CenterStage Productions and was premiered recently at the first Rome International Film Festival, the latter is from Seiko, which was also behind "I Wanna Be Happy."

"We are thankful because Tito Robbie Tan is taking the risk of producing a digital movie like 'Foster,' " Cherry Pie tells INQUIRER Entertainment.

It's a unique and poignant story, she says.

"It's about foster moms in a squatters' area," she relates. "According to a study, it's better for orphans to grow up in a family and not in centers or institutions. So these poor moms take in the kids, to simulate a family set-up for them. In return, the government pays the moms P1,500 a month. That's the beauty of the film. It will show that, even though they're penniless, these mothers find it in their hearts to take care of children other than their own."

She will share the screen with good friend Eugene Domingo, who portrays a social worker.

"We are both excited. Eugene tells me that I should play this role as if I were just a newcomer. It should be as effortless as possible."

That was precisely the challenge of the "Foster" screenplay, which was penned by "Kubrador" writer Ralston "Joel" Jover, as supervised by Armando "Bing" Lao.

"The role is difficult because it is so uncomplicated. I feel pressured because the acting should be raw and simple," she explains.

She would often go to great lengths for a movie. For "Bridal Shower," she wore a fat suit; for "Kaleldo," her breasts were flattened with bandage.

For "Foster," she's going on a diet.

She also accepted the role of Kristine Hermosa's mother in Star Cinema's "Huwag Kang Lilingon," because she loves director Jerry Sineneng. "I'll do anything for him."

As research, Cherry Pie and the rest of the "Foster" cast and crew have immersed themselves in the Mandaluyong slum community where they will shoot the movie next month.

"We are spending two more days there," she says.

It was an eye-opening experience, in more ways than one.

"One house we visited was the same size as my garden set table. But in spite of their poverty, they welcomed us with open arms. I met with the foster moms because I wanted a peek into their psyches," she relates.

This experience makes her realize how blessed she is.

Recently, Cherry Pie confirmed that she is newly single and separated from partner Gary Tria, the father of her four-year-old son Jose Antonio.

"Although we are no longer together as a couple, we are very much together as parents."

Gary takes an active part in raising Anton, she asserts. "He sees Anton almost every day. We always talk about him. We're still very good friends."

She looks at their time apart as precious opportunity for them "to grow as individuals."

In life and in art, Cherry Pie is thoroughly free and independent.

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

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A peek into the alternate universe of animals

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Cartoon features need not be shallow and slap-happy

"BARNYARD" IS AN ANIMATED FEATURE that's both fun and instructive, because it enables us to peek into the secret, alternative universe of animals.

It's a surprising look because, as the animated movie's fancy would have it, that world is even more of a fun place than humans' domain.

The farm in the film is owned by a mild, agreeable man who treats his animals well.

They reciprocate in kind and, when he's around, they do their work and toe the line.

After he's gone back to his farmhouse at the end of the day, however, it's quite another story: In the farm's barn, it's Party Special time for the animals, who kick up their heels, carouse and generally have themselves a wingding.

The only sour note in this nightly blast is struck by a pack of marauding coyotes, who periodically make off with some animals, especially the plump chickens whose tender meat they most fancy.

The animals' leader, a cow named Ben, tries his best to keep them safe. After a particularly violent coyote raid, however, he gives up the ghost—and the mantle passes on to his adoptive son, Otis.

Alas, Otis is a pale shadow of his brave father. All he really wants to do is to party, and he's terrified of the marauding coyotes.

Thus does the generally slap-happy movie introduce a deeper theme that gives it some substance, and adds to its inspirational value in the end.

That's when Otis finally summons up the courage to stand his ground and mount his own attack on the coyotes' lair.

To be sure, Otis' transformation from coward to hero is too easily achieved. But we still appreciate the film's effort to show young viewers that cartoon features need not be shallow and slap-happy from start to finish, but can also teach them how to help others.

The production also likes to take potshots at the human characters who occasionally share the screen with its animal leads. Most of the people in this story are presented as vile, cruddy types, and the desired inference is, animals are generally nicer creatures than their human "masters." The viewer can take it or leave it, but there it is!

On point of plotting, the movie is too simplistic in its progression, but it generally unfolds in a likable way.

Sometimes, however, embellishments to the story turn out to be tendentious or ineffective, like an overlong romantic angle involving Otis and a pretty new cow named Daisy.

Thank goodness, the production has better things going for it, so such unproductive

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEPARTED • THX
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 FEAST
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE BANQUET
8 TXT
9 THE GUARDIAN
10 TIL I MET YOU

ERMITA 336-7809 to 12

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE PRESTIGE
7 FEAST

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT
5 THE PRESTIGE
6 FEAST
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU

NOVALICHES 936-3231/936-3229-30

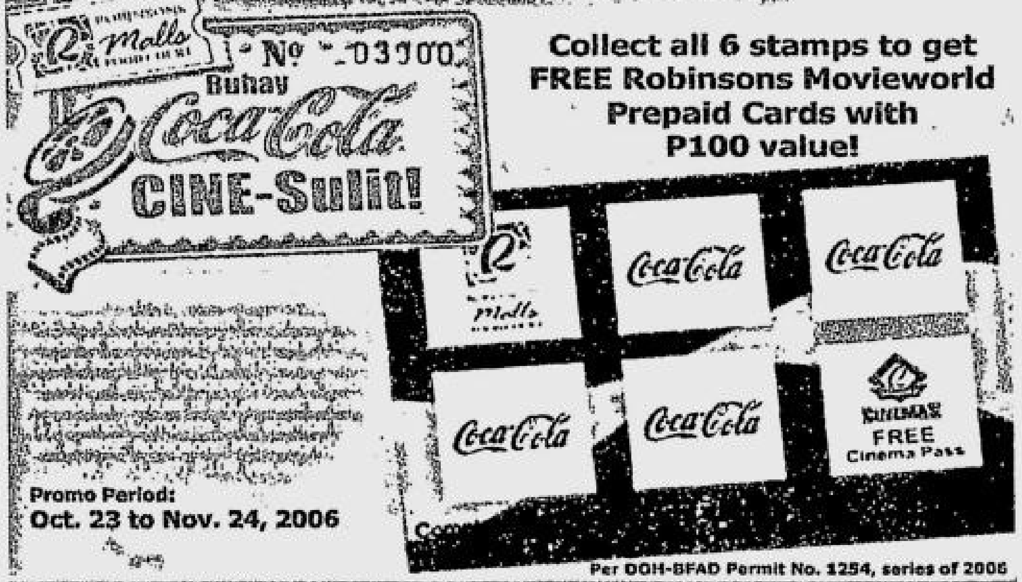
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 TILL I MET YOU

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 GHOST INSIDE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 THE PRESTIGE



Collect all 6 stamps to get FREE Robinsons Movieworld Prepaid Cards with P100 value!

Promo Period:
Oct. 23 to Nov. 24, 2006

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1254, series of 2006

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 OPEN SEASON
4 THE BREED

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE BREED
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 THE BREED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 THE PRESTIGE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1827 (045) 961-5270

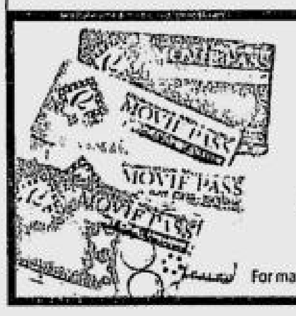
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 TEH GRUDGE 2
3 OPEN SEASON
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 TXT
6 MY FIRST WEDDING

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0469

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 STEP UP
5 THE BREED
6 THE DEPARTED

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 OPEN SEASON
3 PULSE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE



The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 395-2188 locs 230 and 240

A peek into . . .

From page F1

moments don't sour up the film for long.

Fave duo

The fave boy duo, **Kang Ta** and **Vanness**, are the Singled Out artists on Channel [V] this month. Kang Ta is from the Korean boy band H.O.T., while Taiwanese Vanness is from F4.

Their collaboration is a mix of rap, hip-hop, R&B and pop ballads, sung in a blend of languages, including Mandarin, Korean and English.

On Star World

The new season of "The King of Queens" has started airing every Monday at 9 p.m. Mailman Doug and wife Carrie are back—but, with a difference: Doug has lost pounds and some of his appetite. But when it comes to laughs, the Heffernans are definitely not cutting back.

On Oct. 29, from 1 p.m. onwards, spooky and fun episodes on shows like "Monk," "Friends," "That '70s Show," "Frasier," "8 Simple Rules"; 4 p.m. onwards, "The Simpsons" Halloween Marathon; 9 p.m., "Criss Angel Mindfreak" Halloween Special; 10 p.m., "Most Haunted"; 11 p.m., "Ghosts Caught on Tape: Fact or Fiction?"; Midnight, "World's Scariest Ghosts."

World Bazaar Festival

Worldbex Services International teams up with ABS-CBN Foundation as it prepares for the sixth World Bazaar Festival, from Dec. 7 to 17, at the World Trade Center.

The festival showcases the Night Market, International Village, Playland, TV Town, fashion shows, musical acts, a Barbie gallery, etc. Call 531-6350 or email info@worldbex.com.

KID FIT

Cartoon hero search

SNAPTOONS invites Filipinos to submit innovative original ideas to be produced for world premiere on Cartoon Network.

Snaptoons or Short New Asia Pacific Cartoons is an original content development initiative that aims to connect Cartoon Network with new creative talent across its key markets in Asia.

Through this initiative, the network is looking to invest in funding, backing and developing a new, original and groundbreaking idea that lends itself well to animation, is targeted to kids and either has a universal or regional appeal.

Participants may visit the Snaptoons website on www.snaptoons.org. Submission deadline is Dec. 31.

ROUNDUP

Musical extravaganza

CHANNEL [V] PRESENTS "CD: USA," a weekly music chart show that features the star power of a once-a-year awards show.

Each episode shows top-selling artists from every genre back-to-back with the newest chart busters.

The show is also highlighted by music news, contests, interviews and videos.

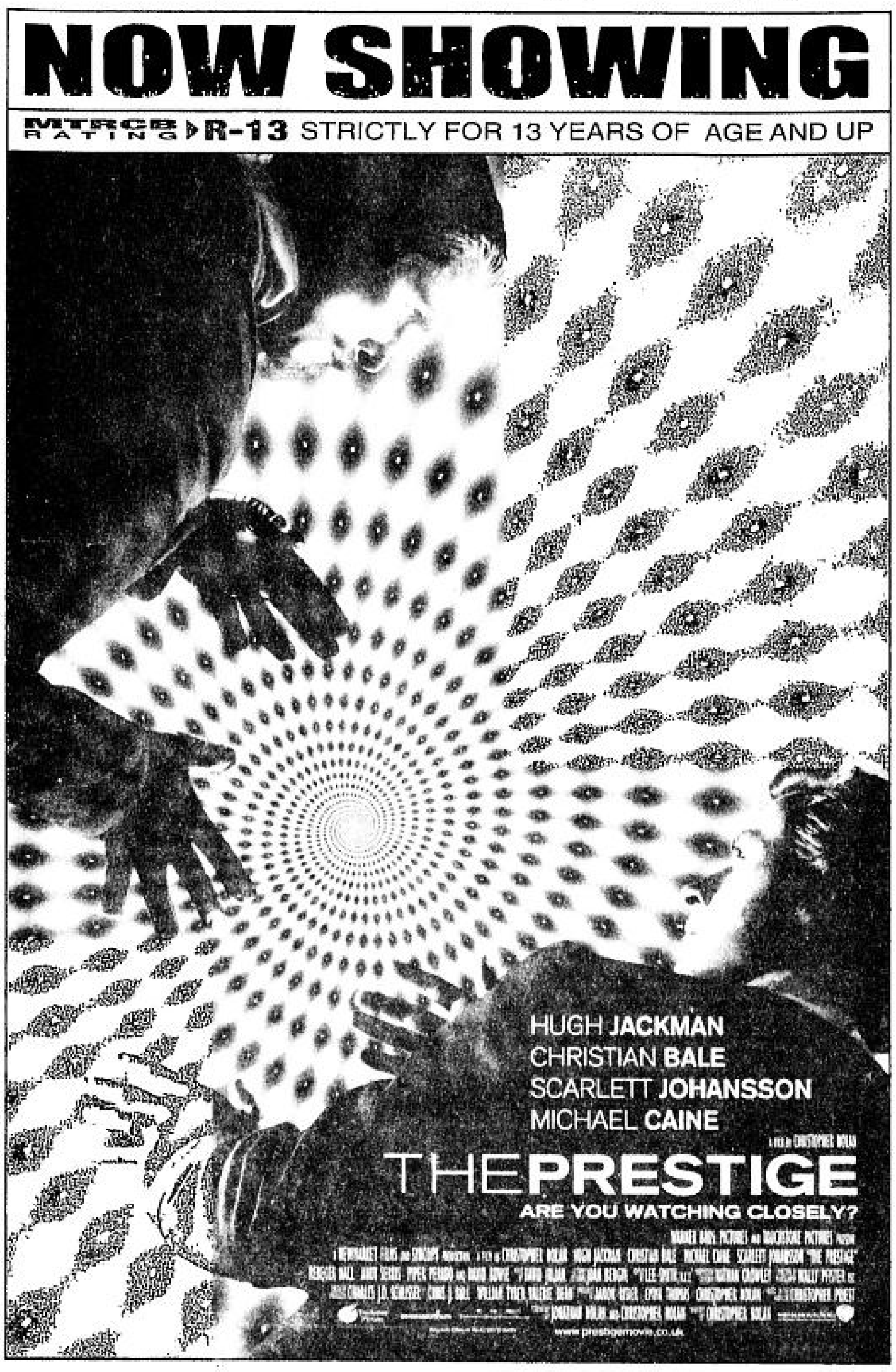
The musical shindig, hosted by Malikha Mallette, John Wynn and Becky Baeling, airs every Saturday, 12 p.m.

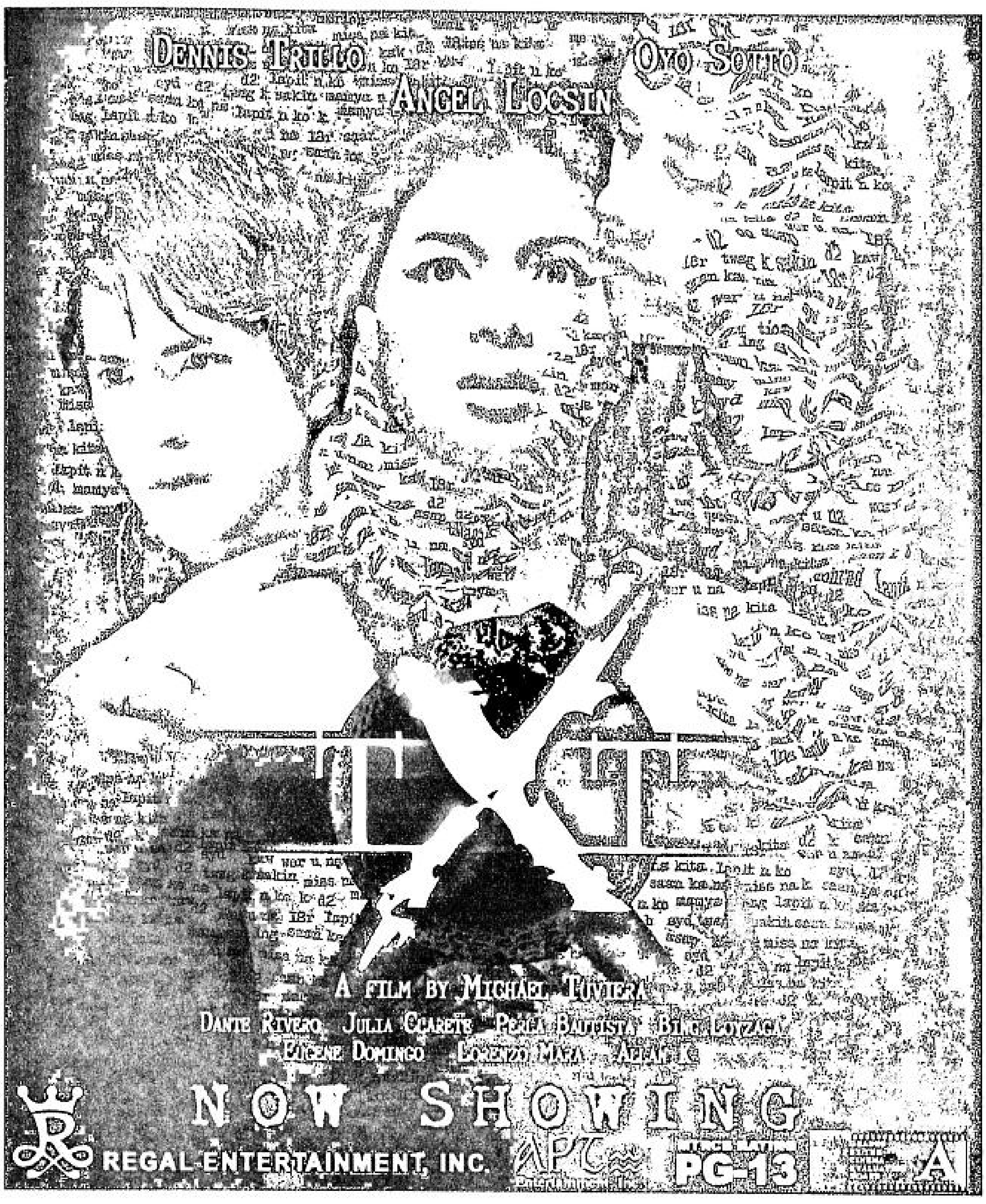
Britain's top hits

LONDON—US rockers My Chemical Romance topped the British singles chart out Sunday, chalking up a second straight week at the top with their macabre tune "Welcome to the, Black Parade."

British rock band Razorlight were in second place with their hit "America" while Bob Sinclar/Cutee B rose one place to No. 3 with "Rock This Party (Everybody Dance Now)."

Meatloaf crashed back into the charts at No. 6 with the new single from "Bat Out of Hell." *AFP*


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
HUGH JACKMAN
CHRISTIAN BALE
SCARLETT JOHANSSON
MICHAEL CAINE
A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN
THE PRESTIGE
ARE YOU WATCHING CLOSELY?
www.prestigemovie.co.uk


DENNIS TRILLO
OYO SOTTO
ANGEL LOCSIN
TXT
A FILM BY MICHAEL TUVIERA
DANTE RIVERO
JULIA CLARETE
PERLA BAUTISTA
BING LOYZAGA
EUGENE DOMINGO
LORENZO MARA
ALLAN K
NOW SHOWING
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
APT
PG-13
A

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	FEAST	THE GRUDGE 2	WORLD TRADE CENTER	THE PRESTIGE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	WORLD TRADE CENTER	OPEN SEASON	THE PRESTIGE	THE GRUDGE 2
GB1 GREENBELT 1	THE GRUDGE 2	THE PRESTIGE					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX THE GRUDGE 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE PRESTIGE GUARANTEED SEATS	THE DEPARTED GUARANTEED SEATS	OPEN SEASON GUARANTEED SEATS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE PRESTIGE GUARANTEED SEATS	OPEN SEASON	THE GRUDGE 2	THE DEPARTED	WORLD TRADE CENTER		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE PRESTIGE	OPEN SEASON	THE GRUDGE 2	PULSE			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	THE GRUDGE 2	OPEN SEASON	THE BANQUET	WORLD TRADE CENTER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION		

At the Activity Center

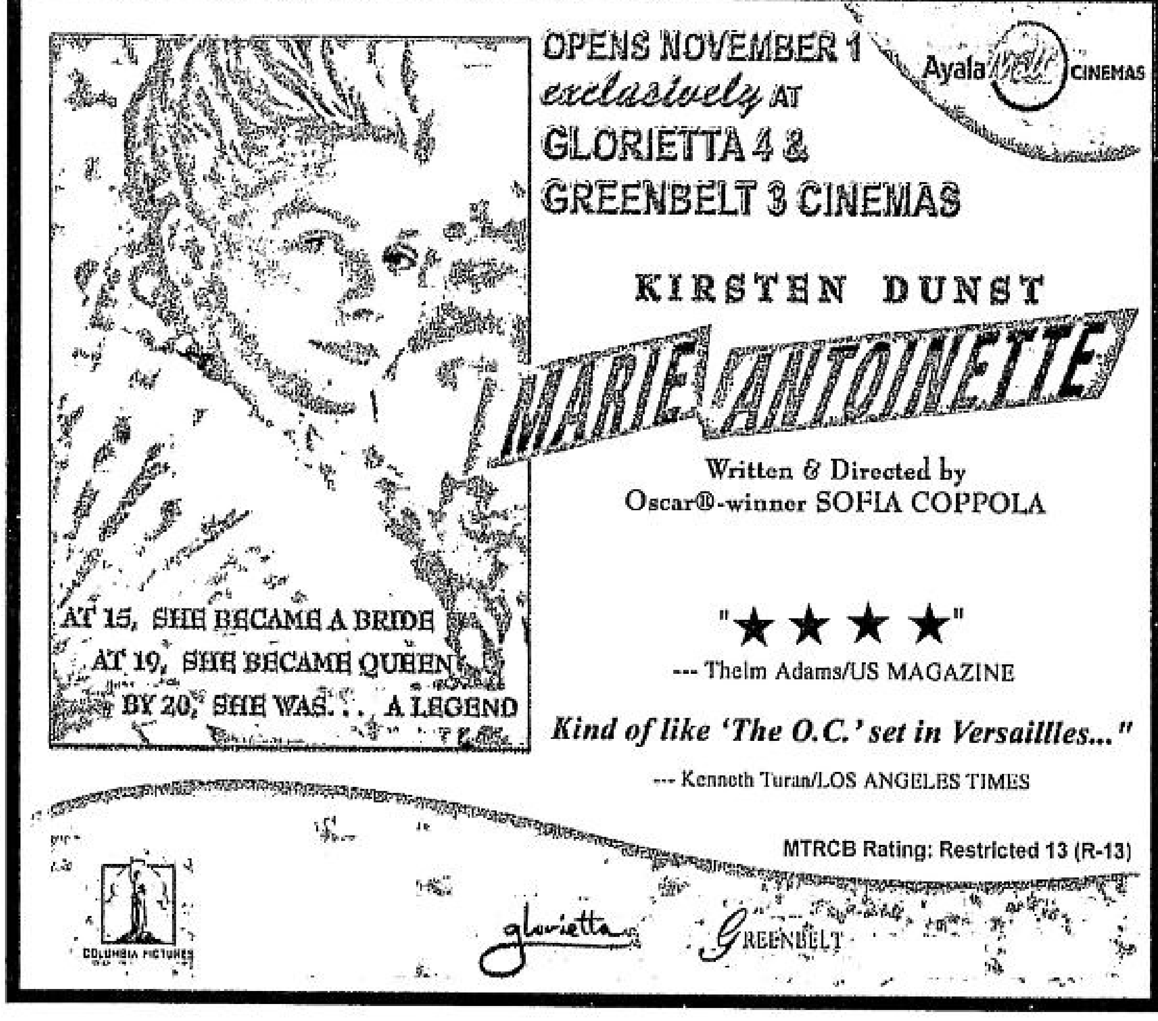
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

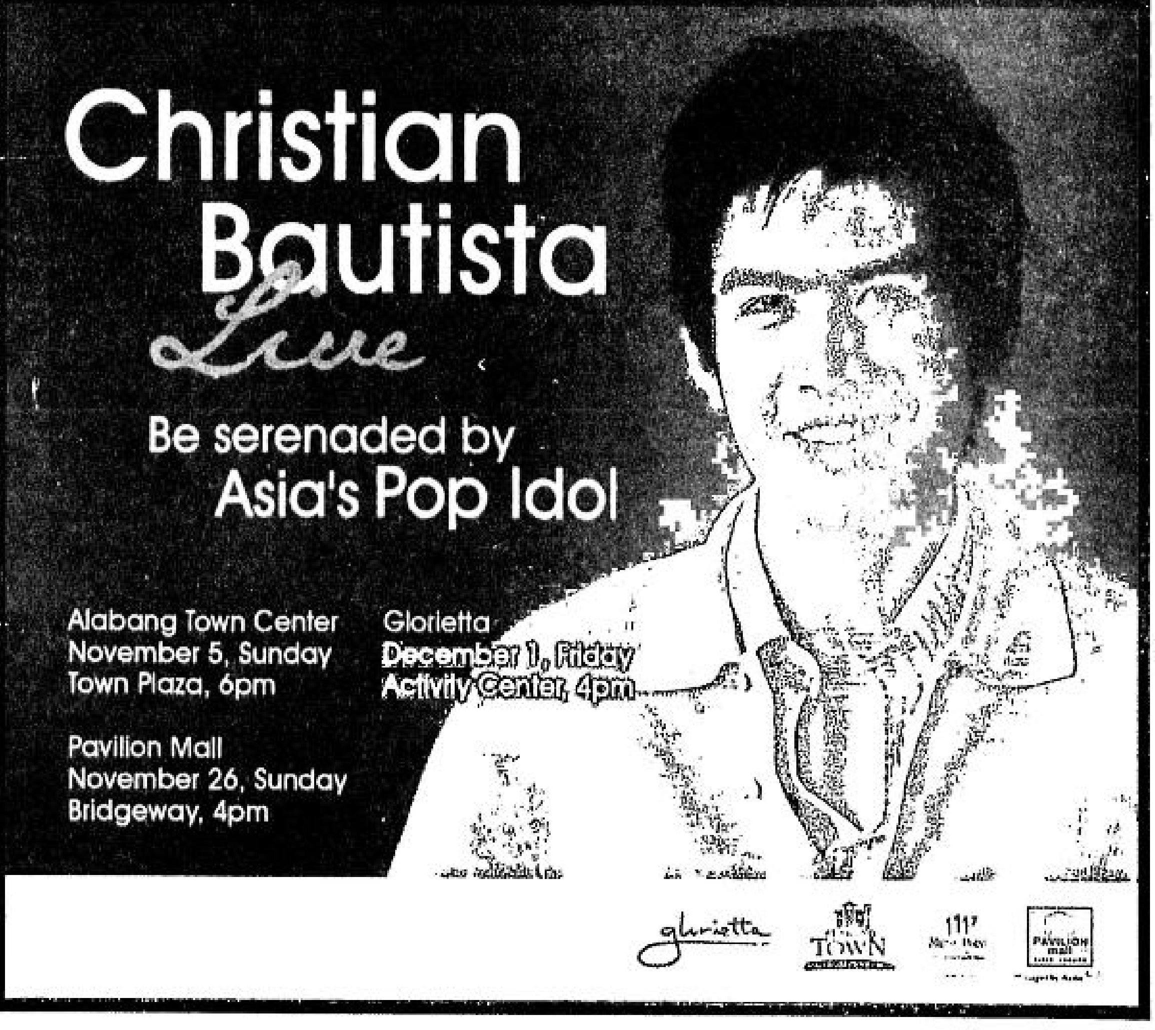
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Guess' Faces to Watch: The Ultimate Global Model Search October 26, 2006	Automatic Center Exhibit October 13 to 27, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Woodridge's United Nation Celebration October 25, 2006	Laguna Expo October 22 to 28, 2006

GREENBELT
Lounge Nights at Greenbelt 2
October 25, 2006

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN Jr.
at REP's Globe Theater - October 9 to 29, 2006

Ayala MUSEUM
19th - 20th Century Philippine Art from Ayala Museum Collection
On-going until January 2007
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org


OPENS NOVEMBER 1
exclusively AT
GLORIETTA 4 &
GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
KIRSTEN DUNST
MARIE ANTOINETTE
Written & Directed by
Oscar®-winner SOFIA COPPOLA
AT 15, SHE BECAME A BRIDE
AT 19, SHE BECAME QUEEN
BY 20, SHE WAS . . . A LEGEND
"★★★★"
--- Thelm Adams/US MAGAZINE
Kind of like 'The O.C.' set in Versaillles..."
--- Kenneth Turan/LOS ANGELES TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
COLUMBIA PICTURES
glorietta
GREENBELT


Christian Bautista
Live
Be serenaded by
Asia's Pop Idol
Alabang Town Center
November 5, Sunday
Town Plaza, 6pm
Glorietta
December 1, Friday
Activity Center, 4pm
Pavilion Mall
November 26, Sunday
Bridgeway, 4pm
glorietta
TOWN
PAVILION mall

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

CINELIFE

1	THE PRESTIGE
2	OPEN SEASON
3	THE GRUDGE 2
4	WORLD TRADE CENTER

PREMIERE

THE BANQUET

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	OPEN SEASON
2	THE PRESTIGE
3	TILL I MET YOU
4	WORLD TRADE

Starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	TILL I MET YOU
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	OPEN SEASON
5	PULSE

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504288, 8433994

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	OPEN SEASON
3	THE PRESTIGE
4	WORLD TRADE ?

THEATRES

1	THE DEPARTED
2	TILL I MET YOU
3	TXT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	TXT
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	FEAST
2	THE DEPARTED
3	THE GUARDIAN
4	THE PRESTIGE
5	OPEN SEASON
6	WORLD TRADE CENTER
7	TILL I MET YOU
8	THE BANQUET
9	GRUDGE - 2
10	TXT

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	THE PRESTIGE
2 (DOLBY)	TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY)	WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	THE PRESTIGE
2	THE GRUDGE - 2
3	TILL I MET YOU
4	OPEN SEASON
5	FEAST

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	THE GUARDIAN
2	BARANG
3	PULSE
4	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	OPEN SEASON
3	TXT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	WORLD TRADE CENTER
2	OPEN SEASON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	THE PRESTIGE
2	OPEN SEASON
3	THE GRUDGE - 2
4	TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	TXT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 (DOLBY)	OPEN SEASON
3 (DOLBY)	THE PRESTIGE
4 (DOLBY)	GRUDGE 2

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TXT
2	TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY)	OPEN SEASON
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111140

1	TILL I MET YOU
2 (DOLBY)	OPEN SEASON
3	THE BREED
4	TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TXT
2	TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY)	THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	TXT
3	DEAD OR ALIVE
4	THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	OPEN SEASON
2	TXT
3	TILL I MET YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	BARANG
2	TILL I MET YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	PULSE
2	GAWIN SA DILIM
3	HUNGER FOR LOVE
4	TILL I MET YOU

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TILL I MET YOU
2	HALIMUYAK
3	BARANG
4	TXT
5	OPEN SEASON

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	OPEN SEASON
3	FLY BOYS
4	THE DEPARTED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Robinsons MOVIEWORLD
CAn be YOUR CINEMA!

Open for advance screenings, product launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. *PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.*

For interested parties, you may contact Marketing Services Department 395-2188 locals 230 and 240

THX CERTIFIED CINEMA

CINEMAS *See it All, its BeSt!*

MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

THE NO. 1 U.S. MOVIE UNLEASHES HELL NOW!

Two years ago a door was opened
and a grudge was born.
This halloween, what was contained
will be unleashed.

# THE GRUDGE 2
FROM SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1 & 2

AMBER TAMBLYN ARIELLE KEBBEL JENNIFER BEALS SARAH ROEMER & SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR

GHOST HOUSE PICTURES

FACT: THE BIGGEST AND DEADLIEST CARNIVOROUS SNAKES ARE FOUND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
~The Guinness Book of World Records

BIGGER THAN 'ANACONDA'
MORE LETHAL THAN 'SNAKES ON A PLANE'
COMING SOON
EATEN ALIVE
BOA

SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE PRESTIGE MTRCB R-13 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00	③ THE GRUDGE 2 MTRCB PG-13 12.10, 2.30, 4.50, 7:10, 9:30
② OPEN SEASON MTRCB GP 1.05, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00	④ WORLD TRADE CENTER MTRCB PG-13 1.40, 4.30, 7.15, 10.00
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE BANQUET MTRCB PG-13

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS

On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

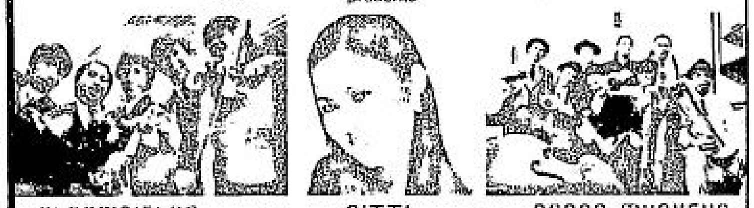
Shangri-la Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

BARNYARD G 1:00,3:00 THE BANQUET PG13 5:00,7:40	OPEN SEASON G 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20
GRUDGE 2 PG13 1:45,3:50,6:05,8:15	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	THE PRESTIGE R13 12:00,2:40,5:20, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.

Eastwood City
presents



BLOOMFIELDS // SITTI // BRASS MONKEYS

LIVE!!!
OCTOBER 26, 2006 / 8PM
EASTWOOD CENTRAL PLAZA
FREE ADMISSION

For the benefit of:
SAGIP KABATAANG GUIMARAS

SAGIP KAPAMILYA MAGIC 89.9 RUSH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

WORLD TRADE CENTER 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
OPEN SEASON 2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55 G
THE PRESTIGE 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00 R-13
GRUDGE 2 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

FROM PRODUCERS **WES CRAVEN, MATT DAMON & BEN AFFLECK**

ALIENS OR PREDATORS?
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE
FEAST
THEY'RE HUNGRY
YOU'RE DINNER
NOW SHOWING